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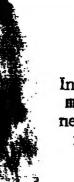
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SECRE

When bands play for their METRO SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

FREE PUFF Bernard Levin defends Claudia, and other



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Heseltine and Patten attack Hague



AND ANDREW PIERCE

MICHAEL HESELTINE yesterday launched another damaging attack on William Hague, plunging the Tory party into even deeper crisis after its humiliating defeat in the Winchester by-election.

The former Deputy Prime Minister reopened Tory divisions over Europe by giving his full backing to Peter Temple-Morris, the pro-European MP, who resigned from the Conservatives yesterday after having

the party whip withdrawn.

Mr Hague's difficulties were compounded last night when Chris Patten, the former Hong Kong Governor, also delivered a thinly veiled attack on his leadership, Tory split reopened over Europe

warning him not to be "nationalistic". In a magazine article, the former party chairman calls on Mr Hague to do more to stamp his mark on the political landscape and warns that he will prolong his spell in opposition unless he takes a more pragmatic approach on Europe.

As the Tories were struggling to come to terms with the by-election result in Winchester when Mark Oaten, the Liberal Democrat saw his majority soar from two votes to 21,000. Mr Heseltine openly criticised the Tory leader for removing

the whip from Mr Temple-Morris. "I think it's an unwise and unnecessary decision. Peter Temple-Morris has loyally supported Conservative prime minister one after the other as they sought to establish Britain's self-interest in Europe," he said.

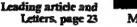
He represents a stream of opinion within the Conservative Party that we should seek to encourage, not to

Mr Heseltine rocked the boat earlier this month, when he criticised Mr Hague's decision to take such a hard-line on the single currency, by ruling it out for ten years. Mr Patten went further, in an article in The World in 1998, which is published by The Economist.

He wrote: "Mr Hague should avoid the nasty rightwing nationalism found elsewhere in Europe. Being tainted with it would ensure only that Mr Blair's tenure of his present position is much longer than Mr Hague would like."

Tory strategists were determined to bolster morale after the disastrous result in the Winchester by-election suffered by Gerry Malone, the former Aberdeen Tory MP. There was little comfort either from the Becken-ham by-election where Jacqui Lait scraped home with a much reduced majority of 1,227.

But the party's tactic to take revenge and boost Mr Hague's authority by withdrawing the whip from Mr Temple-Morris backlired. The MP for Leominster, who has been threatening to defect to Labour, immediately announced his resignation and said he would sit as an independent Conservative on the Labour benches despite several attempts by Tony Blair to make him go the whole way and join the Labour





Malone disaster poll

Child sex police raid two public schools

By STEWART TENDLER AND PAUL WILKINSON

by detectives in a national police operation against a suspected child pornography

Sedbergh School in Cum-bria and Durham School were among 15 addresses visited in dawn raids. Homes in London, Hampshire, Merseyside, Surrey, West Mercia and Wiltshire were also searched during an investigation codenamed Operation Clarence.

The suspects include three teachers and a former teacher but senior detectives said that the investigation is not centred on schools. They said the suspects came from a variety; of backgrounds and a severa of them knew each other. Police refused to comment on any links with a series of raids on provate schools over the past two years or investigations into sex tourism in

countries such as Thailand. No arrests were made yes-terday but police said a large quantity of films, papers and camputer material was seized for examination. Police have yet to discover whether they are dealing with a suspected distribution network or whether material has been photographed or filmed by

As police began sifting through the material, officers

WEATHER	32
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WEEKEND	**
GARDENING	. 21-23
PROPERTY	8-10
TRAVEL	



TWO leading Northern public from Scotland Yard's schools were raided yesterday paedophile and child pornography squad, which led the operation, said hundreds of video films were taken for

> Detective Chief Inspector Jim Reynolds, head of the squad/said: This is a major operation that has been going on for about three years. This is a result of intelligence gathering by all the forces involved and a quantity of material has been seized, inclading videos, computer equipment and correspondence. I am hopeful this will lead to prosecutions and

further intelligence. Sedbergh, which has 344 boys and fees of more than £12,000 a year, was attended by former England rugby captain Will Carling. Durham is a mixed school with 134 pupils and fees over £10,000.

Cumbria police said materiat was taken from living quarters at Sedbergh which is not an area used by pupils. Material, including video tapes and other equipment was seized from Durham School and a private house. Christopher Hirst, the head-master of Sedbergh, said: "I

can confirm that the police have requested the school's cooperation in certain inquiries they are conducting. As yet we have not been made aware in detail of the reasons for the inquiries. The school continues to function normally." Other addresses raided in-

clude a home in Donhead St Andrew, south of Salisbury. Hampshire police made a number of searches and material was taken. One address was searched in Merseyside. but nothing was seized. Videos were taken from an address in Worcester by West Mercia

An address in Surrey was also checked but nothing was taken. In London police raided addresses in Harrow, Cheam, Islington, Croydon and Albany Street near Regent's Park. Police are known to have

launched investigations into links between private schools and child pernography after allegations from a former teacher at Abberley Hall in Herefordshire in 1995. Last year two staff at Hurstpierpoint College in Sussex were dismissed after being given a police caution for possessing ndecent material.

In August this year the body of Adrian Stark, director of music at St John's School. Leatherhead, Surrey, was found at the base of Beachy Head after he had been charged with three charges of possessing indecent pictures of children. He had formerly



SUSPECTED hacker charged with breaking into US Air Force computers caus-

ing damage estimated at £300,000 walked free from court yesterday. Mathew Bevan, 23, smiled as he left Belmarsh Crown Court, south-east London, with representatives of a tabloid newspaper six months after a London teenager, Richard Pryce, was fined £1,200 for admitting similar offences car-

ried out when he was sixteen. Prosecutors decided it was not in the public interest to pursue a costly case expected to last up to three months involving witnesses flown from America to give evidence against Bevan, the son of a Fraud Squad detective.

The decision comes three and a half years after two hackers codenamed Kuji and Datastream Cowboy used the

By MICHAEL EVANS

AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE ARMY now owns more

horses than tanks, a Govern-

ment "Domesday Book" of

The register, to be published

by the Treasury, is expected to

show that on April I there

were 396 Challenger tanks

Horses are the only live

assets in the list because they

have a value of more than"

Not included are the

Army's 1,300 dogs and regi-

mental mascots - two goats,

one black buck, one ram, two

and 483 horses.

ESOO each.

Laboratories, the US Air Force's premier command and research facility at Griffiss Base in New York. Sources close to the US investigation said the intru-

sions had "serious implications" but did not involve national security. According to a report to the US Senate Affairs Committee the intruders gained access in March 1994 to unclassified files held at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre and computers belonging to Lockheed.

Pryce, from Colindale, north London, who went on to win a scholarship to study the double bass at the Royal College of Music, was fined after he admitted 12 charges of gaining unauthorised access under the Computer Misuse Act. Magistrates heard that he "caused more harm than the

Another institution alleged-

Army horses outrank tanks

Shetland ponies, one wolf-

hound, one drum horse, one

The ratio of horses to tanks

in the Army has varied since

the Second World War, from

the days when there were

mule packs as well as horses.

and some colonial armies

were mounted. The Army

used mules to deliver food

and other stores to British

troops during the early peace-

keeping days in Bosnia but

they were hired locally. The register will list every

government department's

possessions that have any

The MoD will take up half

ferret and a tiger.

ly penetrated by the pair was Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, where wilder elements among UFO conspiracy theorists believe alien spacecraft are secretly held. Bevan, who cheerfully ac-

knowledges being obsessed with aliens, nevertheless denied three charges of gaining unwarranted access to USAF and Lockheed computers between March and May 1994. The charges related to the alteration of data by the alleged insertion of a "sniffer" program designed to gain

access to systems. The investigation was carried out by Scotland Yard's specialist Computer Crime Unit and the US Air Force's Office of Special Investigations (OSD.

Initial charges of conspiracy against the pair were discontinued at an earlier hearing.

the register of assets because

of its huge stock of properties

more than 90,000 — as well

as its weapon systems and

training land, Gordon Brown

the Chancellor, will use the

register to pave the way for a

However, the main area for

cuts at the MoD will be in its

portfolio of properties and

estates. The Armed Forces

have already faced significant

Apart from the 386 Chai-

lengers, there are 386 of the

new Challenger 2 tank on

order but when they come

into service they will replace

cutbacks in equipment.

new round of state sell-offs.

The hacker's world, page 4

THE SATURDAY TIMES **Now Bigger** and Better

The Saturday Times is now bigger and better, with seven sections for a perfect weekend

Steve McManaman, l awrence Dallaglio

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150 YEARS OF HISTORY AND ROMANCE

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6.5 million disabled people in

Britain and force many into

Ministers confirmed that

the Government was drawing

up proposals to restructure

the five main benefits for the

sick and disabled as part of the

The main objective is to try

Treasury's spending review.

to get as many people as pos-

sible into work so that benefits

can be concentrated on those

with the most severe handi-

caps. Options being consi-

dered include taxing, means-

testing or time-limiting some

benefits and replacing others

with insurance-based schemes.

But the plans, backed by

Gordon Brown and Harriet

'She looked more at ease with herself than she has done for years'

Alan Hamilton on the Queen. PAGES 8 and 9



'i always fall in love with people l work with'

Valerie Grove meets Sally Potter, PAGE 21



'i may grow a Hemingway beard

> Ken Clarke on his new image.

Campaigners for disabled reject plan to cut benefits

The Government wants to concentrate state help on abled yesterday reacted strongly against government plans to cut benefits for the

the most severely handicapped. Jill Sherman reports

Secretary, which are still at an early stage, have already caused a row in the Cabinet. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, and John Prescott. the Deputy Prime Minister, are said to be strongly opposed to many of the suggestions, and the Liberal Democrats have called for a full Commons debate on the issue. Lorna Reith, director of the Disability Alliance, an umbrella group for 300 disabled groups, said: "We are appalled that the Government is prepared to consider options that will reduce the living standards of disabled people

Harman, the Social Security

so drastically. We are very concerned that if they remove disability benefits from disabled people who work it will make it impossible for them to continue working." Mencap, representing men-

tally handicapped people, said: "The reality is people have low incomes and high expenses. The facts are against the Government and the public will be against them. For a severely disabled person not in employment, total benefit levels are a small fraction of the earnings non-disabled workers take for granted." Lord Morris of Manchester, a long-time campaigner for

the disabled and the architect of many of their benefits, was also furious about the plans. The former Labour MP pointed out that disabled people had had no real income increase since 1980, when the Government broke the link between benefits and prices. He also insisted that all disabled people would prefer to be in work than on benefit. "There is not a single person who would not prefer to have

dependence on social security." Lord Morris said. The disability bill has risen from £4.1 billion in 1982 to

the independence and dignity

of the taxpayer rather than

now responsible for nearly a quarter of the £100 billion social security bill Ministers are determined not only to curb the growth but to cut the bill by trying to get more disabled people into work.

مكذا من رلامهل

A spokesman from the Department of Social Security said: "Ministers want to ensure that the DSS helps those who can get into work ger into work, and gives appropriate support to those who cannot get into work."

Alistair Darling, Chief Sec-retary to the Treasury, said that any future proposals would be entirely consistent with manifesto pledges. "People supported us because we were prepared to review government spending right

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hague declines to name Tory donors

William Hague has rejected a challenge from Tony Blair to disclose the names of donors who have given money to the Conservative Party in recent years. Mr Hague said in a letter that it would "dishonourable" to release details of people who

had given money on a confidential basis.

The Labour leadership hopes to overcome its recent embarrassment over its U-turn on tobacco sponsorship, and a donation to the party from the Formula One chief, Bernie Ecclestone, by focusing on the Conservatives' refusal to disclose details about its donors. In the Commons this week, Mr Blair offered to name Labour's donors going back ten years if the Tories would do the same; Mr Hague refused to be drawn. Mr Hague has now rejected the Prime Minister's challenge in his letter to Mr Blair yesterday, which was copied to Sir Patrick Neill, the standards watchdog.

Bruno marriage denial

Frank Bruno, right, the former world heavyweight box-ing champion, has denied "wild allegations" in the press that his marriage was in trouble after he had assaulted his wife. The denial by Mr Bruno, 36, of Stondon Massey, near Brentwood, Essex, came a day after Laura Bruno, 34, went to the High Court to obtain an order banning her husband from "assaulting,



Legal aid reform pledge

The Government pledged to end the legal aid system as a "machine primarily for paying lawyers" bills" when it unveiled new details of plans to scrap civil legal aid and bring in "no win, no fee" work. In a attack on the £1.6 billion legal aid scheme as a "subsidy for lawyers", Geoff Hoon, parliamentary secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, said money which could be spent on the sick and injured was being "gobbled up in legal aid".

A-level appeals move

Leading girls' schools are calling for a review of A-level procedures because they fear that pressure from parents on schools to challenge grades is threatening the credibility of the examination. The number of appeals has risen sharply in recent years. London-based members of the Girls' Schools Association have demanded action to reduce the number of appeals and to tighten up marking sufficiently to cut the proportion of candidates being upgraded.

Hospital deaths inquiry

Police are investigating an allegation that elderly, terminally ill patients in a ward at the psychiatric Kingsway Hospital, Derby, were starved until they became so weak that they died from infections. A member of staff is understood to have reported suspicions about the deaths in a ward where many patients suffer from dementia and are difficult to feed Derbyshire police and South Derbyshire Mental Health Trust confirmed that the investigation began a formight ago.

Hostage warder freed

Prison staff equipped with riot gear stormed an office where a warder was being held captive after fears for his safety suddenly mounted. The prison officer had been held for more than 18 hours by two inmates at a young offender institute. He received cuts and bruises and was badly shaken during the operation at D-wing of the Castington secure unit near Morpeth in Northumberland. Both prisoners, who were not

Kennel maid 'had CJD'

A 20-year-old woman is thought to have become the 22nd person to die from a form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease linked with eating contaminated beef. Vicky Rimmer, of Connah's Quay, Aberconwy, had been in a coma for four years. Her body has been sent to Edinburgh for a post-mortem examination by a specialist CJD unit. Doctors believe that Miss Rimmer, a kennels worker, was injected by new-variant CJD, which strikes its victims at a much younger age.

Man fined for shouting

A man who screamed at his wife so loudly that her hearing was permanently damaged was fined £450. Plymouth Crown Court was told that Peter Pryor, St. who suffers from tinnitus, shouted at his wife, Christine: "I am going to make you suffer like I do." Judge Jeremy Griggs ordered Pryor. who had denied assault causing actual bodily harm, to carry out 150 hours' community service. The couple divorced last

MP attacked by dogs



left, was recovering yester-day after two lurchers attacked him while he was jogging in a London park. "I had one literally hanging off my arm by his teeth, while the other started tearing into my thigh," said the 61-year-old MP for Bootle, who spent five hours in casualty being given stitches. "I was left with blood running down my leg and in quite a state of

Manor from heaven

Richard Spurgeon, the manager of Colchester Zoo, has been given a 32-room house set in 12½ acres. The house, Meadow Croft in Earls Colne, Essex, had been left to its housekeeper, Jean Last, by a local businessman, Ruben Hunt, with an instruction that she give it to charity. Miss Last could find no charity willing to take the property on and so gave it to Mr Spurgeon, who has a wife and two children. His mother Pat used to deliver groceries to the house.





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Churchill's wartime car up for sale

IT WAS hardly stately transport for a wartime leader of Churchill loved his little Austin. so much so that he refused to exchange it for some-thing more ostentatious. When Lady Churchill de-

cided to trade the black

Austin 10 in for a grander

model befitting her hus-band's position, he ordered her to go back to the dealer and bring his Austin home. Now the car which cap-tured the affections of Brit-ain's wartime Prime Minister could fall into for-eign hands when it comes up for sale. Collectors from around Europe have contacted Sotheby's which auction the Cambridge saloon on Monday at the Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon, northwest London. The price is between £4,000 and £6,000. but this could be a conservative estimate because of the

Sotheby's said: "We would hope a British buyer will come forward for a car with such wonderful associations with a heroic figure in British history. Clearly, though, it has attracted interest from a lot of people around the world, particularly in

car's 12-year ownership by

Peace on earth

May we take this opportunity to thank all of you who have supported our Hospice during 1997. Your generous donations have enabled us to bring love, peace and comfort to over 900 terminally ill people this year alone.

> ST. JOSEPH'S MAREST LONDON 68 45A

Europe, so the car might, unfortunately, leave Britain."
Churchill had a curious attachment to his Austin, one of the most unprepossessing

models of the pre-war years

and manufactured at a time when Rolls-Royce, Daimler, Bentley and Lanchester were all making majestic models with worldwide reputations for quality and performance Reputation obviously did not matter to Churchill as much as reliability, or perhaps he had high regard for Herbert Austin, founder of the Birmingham carmaker and

In any event, the logbook shows Churchill's signature as the first owner, taking delivery of EYH 409 on June 3. 1938. The little four-door is hardly luxurious, its red leather interior no more than spartan and the sit-up-andbeg driving seat seemingly too small for Churchill's ample frame. Even the ashtray seems hardly big enough to cope with his legendary cigars, though there is a sliding sunroof and folding windscreen.

premium feature: the car's 1.125cc, four-cylinder could generate only 10 horse power so a fair wind at the rear would be needed to struggle past the 40mph mark. The Austin did have one exclusive feature: a new type of pressed steel "easy clean" spoked wheels, though it is hard to imagine the former Prime Minister going at them with bucket and sponge.

Power was also not a

Churchill used the car throughout the war years, famously photographed by during one of his frequent outings. He sold the car in 1950 but it was bought at auction in 1967 by the sixth Marquess of Bath for £1,350 and kept at the Longleat estate in Wiltshire. A restoration in 1983, costing £6,335, bas put the car in the nearnew condition that Churchill enjoyed. The present marquess is selling the car to clear space as part of a



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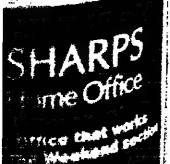
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THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

Hollywood ushers in its top 100

NEVER shy of self-aggrandisement, the American film industry is choosing 100 great feature films to mark the hundredth anniversary of the American cinema - all of them made or financed in the United States.

Citizen Kane, The Sound of Music and The Wizard of Oz all seem certain to make the list; Chariots of Fire stands an outside chance: Laurence Olivier's Henry V has no chance at all.

"This is a landmark moment for American films, the great art form of the 20th century." said Jean Picker Firstenberg the head of the American Film Institute (AFI), which is compilied the life. which is compiling the list, at a press conference on Wednes-day. "American film-makers set the standard for the

Critics of Hollywood's relentlessly commercial video fodder may beg to differ. Admirers of the work of Federico Fellini, Sergei Eisenstein, James Ivory and others will certainly howl in protest. Nonetheless, the long shortlist of 400 films being sent to 1,500 American film luminaries, as well as the Clinton and Gore families, does contain some

Casablanca, Chinatown, The Graduate and Alfred The US film industry is planning to

celebrate a century of movie-making

with an all-American cast. Giles

Whittell in Los Angeles reports on

an attempt to pick its 100 best works

these grounds, Steven Spiel-berg and George Lucas are likely to walk tall in the

centennial pantheon. With ten

films between them on the

shortist, their popularity and

cultural impact cannot be

doubted, even if their artistic

to expect an all-out sensory

assault for the price of their

ticket, as well as a good story.

British actors and directors are not excluded entirely,

thanks to their willingness to

work with US studios. Hitchcock, the inventor of the thrill-

er, has five films on the list.

David Lean has three -Lawrence of Arabia, The Bridge on the River Kwai and

Dr Zhivago - each of which

included. So are Ben-Hur, cance and cultural impact. On Scarface, Pulp Fiction and 2001: A Space Odyssey.

Since it was largely financed in America, The English Patient is a contender. Last year's lamentable Jerry Maguire is also on the shortlist, presumably for touching the deeply sentimental chord that can make a film a hit in the Midwest even if it flops abroad. Forrest Gump, in the same category, is likewise in the top 400. Flanked by the peerless Dustin Hoffman and the boy-

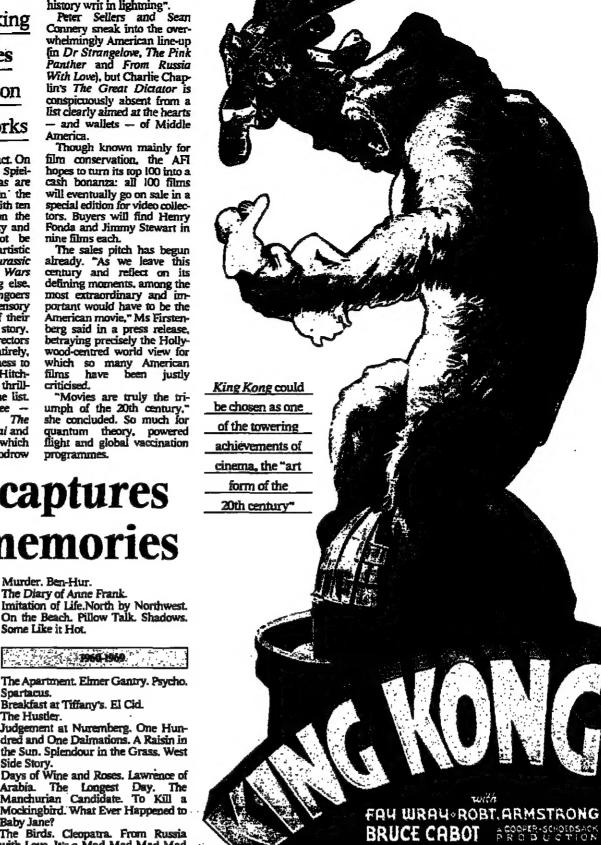
next-door appeal of Chris O'Donnell (known to millions of teenagers as Batman's latest Robin). Ms Firstenberg made it clear this week that critical acclaim was by no means her only criterion. Voters are also being asked to consider major award winners, popularity over time, historical signifiWilson's exclamation that the movies, at their best, are "like history writ in lightning".

Peter Sellers and Sean Connery sneak into the overwhelmingly American line-up fm Dr Strangelove, The Pink Panther and From Russia With Love), but Charlie Chaplin's The Great Dictator is conspicuously absent from a list clearly aimed at the hearts — and wallets — of Middle

Though known mainly for film conservation, the AFI hopes to turn its top 100 into a cash bonanza: all 100 films will eventually go on sale in a special edition for video collectors. Buyers will find Henry Fonda and Jimmy Stewart in nine films each.

The sales pitch has begun genius can: Jaws, ET, Jurassic Park and the Star Wars trilogy have, if nothing else, trained millions of filmgoers already. "As we leave this century and reflect on its defining moments, among the most extraordinary and important would have to be the American movie," Ms Firstenberg said in a press release, betraying precisely the Holly-wood-centred world view for which so many American films have been justly

> "Movies are truly the triumph of the 20th century," she concluded. So much for quantum theory, powered flight and global vaccination



Reel art likely to draw in auction crowds

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN

A 1931 poster from the film Frankenstein, described by experts as the most sought-after film poster ever made", is expected to fetch more than \$600,000 (£375,000) at an auction of early cinema posters to be held at Christie's, New York. The present record is \$453,500 for a 1932 poster of The Manney.

The Mummy.
The Frankenstein poster, in which Boris Karloff's face glows as if made of live coals, is one of a richly lurid selection from the horror genre, including a 1935 "jumbo window card" of The Bride of Frankenstein, a 1931 poster portraying Bela Lugosi in *Dracula*, and a splendidly outre 1941 poster of *The Wolf Man*.

Bruce Hershenson, the movie poster consultant for Christie's, said that horror posters were by far the most popular with buyers - and the most expensive. "There's the rarity factor. of course, because most of these films were made between 1927 and 1935, a period from which few posters sur-vive. But I like to think the real reason is that these are the films that impressed buyers most when they were children. People remember being frightened out of their skin by

Richard Allen. co-author of Reel Art: Great Posters from the Golden Age of the Silver Screen, explained that the cachet that attaches to horror film posters could also be because they are "always visually stunning". He added: "Personally, they're not my favourites, but I'll concede that they're often the most imaginative works of art."

Mr Allen emphasised that the early Hollywood posters were "so good" because they "had to act as magnets. They had to draw crowds. So they were a compelling blend of commercial drive and art that was arresting." Other posters at the auction, expected to delight collectors, include the best range of Charlie Chaplin posters ever assembled, such as Those Love Pangs and The Gold Rush and Modern Times. Each could fetch up to \$75,000.

The 1936 poster of The Oregon Trail, an early John Wayne film, indisputably the finest poster ever made for a Western, will also be of particular interest.

☐ Hollywood and Early Cinema Posters is at Christie's, New York. on

Film buffs' short list captures a century of cinema memories

884.910 Richard III. The Birth of a Nation. The Cheat Intolerance.

The Poor Little Rich Girl. Within On Gales, the four Project

The Gold Rush. Greed, The Phantom of the Opera. Ben-Hur. The General. The Jazz Singer. Sunrise. Wings. The Crowd. The Wind. The Broadway Melody.

All Quiet on the Western Front. Little Caesar. Morocco. Cimarron. City Lights. Frankenstein. The Public Enemy. Freaks, Grand Hotel, I am a Fugitive From a Chain Gang, Scarface: The Shame of a Nation. Trouble in Paradise. Cavalcade. Duck Soup. 42nd Street.

King Kong. She Done Him Wrong. Sons of the Desert. It Happened One Night The Scarlet Empress. The Thin Man. David Copperfield. The Little Colonel.

Mutiny on the Bounty. A Night at the Opera. Top Hat, Dodsworth, Fury. The Great Ziegfeld. Mr Deeds Goes to Town. Modern Times. My Man

Godfrey. Swingtime. The Awful Truth. Camille. The Life of Emile Zola. Lost Horizon. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

A Star is Born. The Adventures of Robin Hood, Boys Town, Bringing up Baby, You Can't Take it With You, Babes in Arms. Beau Geste. Destry Rides

Again. Gone with the Wind. Goodbye Mr Chips. Gunga

Mr Smith goes to Washington. Ninotchka. Only Angels Have Wings. Stagecoach. The Wizard of Oz. Wuthering Heights. Young Mr Lincoln.

The Bank Dick. Fantasia.

The Grapes of Wrath. His Girl Friday. The Mark of Zorro. The Philadelphia Story. Pinocchio. Rebecca. Citizen Kane. How Green Was My Valley.

The Lady Eve. The Little Foxes. The Maltese Falcon. Sergeant York Sullivan's Travels.

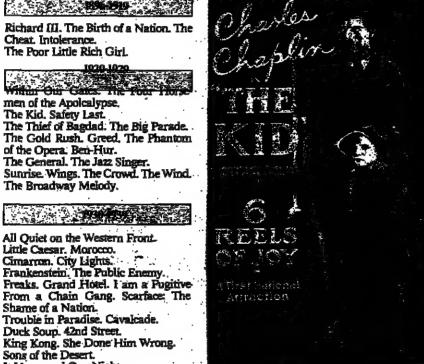
Bambi. Casablanca. Cat People. The Magnificent Ambersons. Mrs Miniver. Now, Voyager. The Pride of the Yankees. Road to Morocco. To Be or Not to Be. Woman of the Year. Yankee Doodle Dandy.

Bataan. Cabin in the Sky. The Ox-Bow Incident. Shadow of a Doubt. Double Indemnity.

Going My Way. Hail the Conquering Hero. Laura. Meet Me in St Louis. The Miracle of Morgan's Creek Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo. To Have and Have Not. The Lost Weekend. The Best Years of Our Lives. The Big Sleep. Gilda. It's a Wonderful Life. My Darling Clementine. Notorious. The Yearling. Gentleman's Agreement. Miracle on 34th Street. Out of

the Past. Force of Evil. Red

River. The Treasure of the



Chaplin's first full-length feature. the King's Men. The Heiress, Intruder in the Dust. Sands of

Iwo Jima. A Letter to Three Wives. The Third Man. Twelve O'Clock High. White

1950-1959 All About Eve. Cinderelia.

Gun Crazy. The Gunfighter. Sunset Boulevard. Winchester 73. The African Queen.

An American in Paris. The Day the Earth Stood Still. A Place in the Sun. Strangers on a Train. A Streetcar Named Desire.

The Greatest Show on Earth. High Noon. The Quiet Man. Singin' in the Rain. The Band Wagon From Here to Eternity Gentlemen Prefer Blondes. Shane. Stalag 17. The War of the Worlds. The Caine Mutiny. Carmen Jones. On the Waterfront. Rear Window. Salt of the Earth. A Star is Born. 20,000 Leagues

Under the Sea. The Blackboard Jungle. East of Eden. Lady and the Tramp. Marty. Mister Roberts.

The Night of the Hunter. Oklahoma! Rebel Without a Cause. The Seven Year Itch. Around the World in Eighty Days. Giant. Invasion of the Bodysnatchers.

The Searchers. The Ten Commandments. An Affair to Remember. The Bridge on the River Kwai. Paths of Glory. Twelve Angry Men.

The Defiant Ones. Gigi. Run Silent, Run Deep. Touch of Evil. Vertigo. Anatomy of a On the Beach. Pillow Talk. Shadows. Some Like it Hot. 796G-1969 The Apartment, Elmer Gantry, Psycho. Breakfast at Tiffany's. El Cid.

The Diary of Anne Frank.

The Hustler.
Judgement at Nuremberg. One Hundred and One Dalmations. A Raisin in dred and One Dalmations. West the Sun. Splendour in the Grass. West

Side Story.

Days of Wine and Roses. Lawrence of Arabia. The Longest Day. The Manchurian Candidate. To Kill a Mockingbird. What Ever Happened to

The Birds. Cleopatra. From Russia with Love. It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World. The Pink Panther. Tom Jones. The Americanisation of Emily.

Poppins. My Fair Lady. Cat Ballou. Doctor Zhivago. The Sound of Music. The Fantastic Voyage. A Man for All Seasons. Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Barefoot in the Park. Bonnie and Clyde. Cool Hand Luke. The

In Cold Blood. In the Heat of Allen. All First Jazz. Apocathe Night. The Jungle Book. | lypse Now. Breaking Aug. Kramer Versus Kramer. The Producers. Two for the Road. Bullitt. Funny Girl.

Atlantic City. The Empire Strikes Back. Melvin and Howard. Ordinary People. Raging Bull. Return of the Secaucus Seven. Chariots of Fire, On Golden Pond. Raiders of the Lost Ark. Reds. Blade Runner. ET The

Extra Terrestrial. Fast Times Five Easy Pieces. Little Big Man. Love Story. M*A*S*H. at Ridgemont High. Gandhi. Missing. Sophie's Choice. A Clockwork Orange. Dirty The Big Chill. Harry. Fiddler on the Roof. The French Connection. The Last Picture Show. McCabe and Mrs Miller. Cabaret.

Local Hero. El Norte. Return of the Jedi. The Right Stuff. Risky Business. Terms of Endearment. Amadeus. Beverly Hills Cop. Ghostbusters. The Killing Fields. Stranger Than Paradise. Back to the Future. Brazil.

The Color Purple. Out of

Africa. Witness. Blue Velvet. Children of a Lesser God. Ferris Bueller's Day Off. Hannah and Her Sisters. Platoon. Broadcast News. The Last Emperor. Lethal Weapon. Moonstruck. The Untouchables, Big. Dangerous Liaisons. Die Hard. The Last Tempation of Christ.

Rain Man. Batman. Born on the Fourth of July. Dead Poets Society. Do the Right Thing. Driving Miss Daisy. Field of Dreams. Glory. Sex, Lies and Videotape.

1998-1996

Dances with Wolves.

Goodfellas. Pretty Woman.

Rambling Rose. The Silence of

the Lambs. Terminator 2:

Judgement Day. Thelma and

Louise. The Player. Unforgiv-

Forrest Gump. The Lian King.

The Shawshank Redemp-

Casino. Leaving Las Vegas. Sense and Sensibility. Toy

Story. The English Patient.

Beauty and the Beast.

cn. The Fugitive. The Joy Luck Club.

Jurassic Park.

Schindler's List.

Sleepless in Seattle.

Babe, Braveheart.

Fargo, Jerry Maquire.

Pulp Fiction.

tion. Apollo 13.

Heaven. The Deer Hunter. National Lampoon's Animal House.

Night of the Living Dead. Oliver! Planet of the Apes.

Rosemary's Baby. 2001: A

Space Odyssey. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. Easy Rider. Medium Cool. Mid-

night Cowboy. The Wild

1970-1979

Deliverance. The Godfather.

Sounder. American Grafitti.

The Exorcist Last Tango in Paris. Mean Streets. The Sting. The Way we Were. Blazing Saddles. Chinatown.

Dog Day Afternoon. Jaws. The Man Who Would be King. Nashville. One Flew

Over the Cuckoo's Nest. The

Rocky Horror Picture Show.

All the President's Men.

Carrie. Network. The Outlaw

Josey Wales. Rocky. Taxi

Annie Hall. Close Encounters

Saturday Night Fever. Star

Wars. Coming Home. Days of

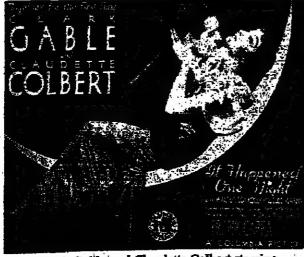
The Conversation.

of the Third Kind.

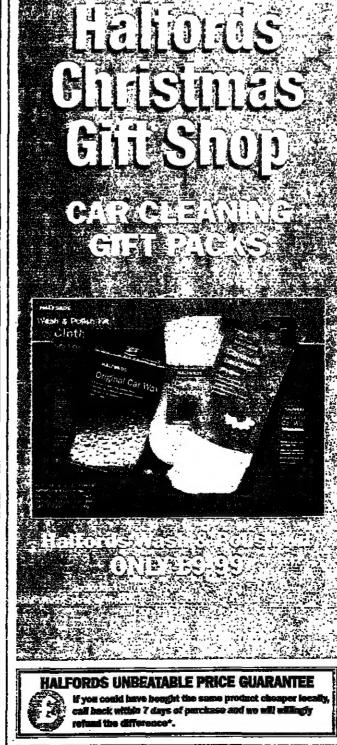
The Goodbye Girl.

The Godfather Part II

Patton.



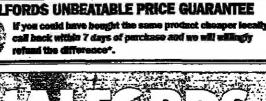
Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert starring together for one memorable night in 1934

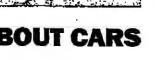












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The boy who broke into Nasa files is unrepentant, says Stephen Farrell

PONY-TAILED Mathew obsessed with UFOs, lived a self as the Nick Leeson of the

hacking world. An Admiral Insurance computer operator by day, at night he sat beneath posters of his fictional FBI heroes. Mulder and Scully, hacking around the world as real-life American investigators on his lectronic trail suspected him of being one of the most sophisticated and dangerous hackers they had ever

In an interview with The Times Bevan admitted gaining access to computers belonging to the US Air Force, Nasa and the defence contractors Lockheed, but adamantly denied ever altering data.

He insists his motive was curiosity, not personal gain. I was after information about UFOs. I just wanted to find evidence of all the conspiracy theories — alien abductions, the 1950s Roswell landings and Nasa faking the moon landings - and where better to look than their computer files?" he said.

The US Air Force posts details of its personnel and



Aliens destroy the White House in Independence Days The movie showed an alien spacecraft held in Area 51

Bevan was 12 when he got his first computer, a Sinclair

ZXEI, for Christmas from his

parents Elaine, a nurse, and

Thomas, a detective sergeant

with the South Wales Fraud

Squad who had no idea how

the gift would alter his son's

hours at a time on the

keyboard - to the irritation of

telephone bills never exceeded

£60 because he mastered the

technique of "blue-boxing",

gaining free calls by sending

parents — the family

Despite spending up to 36

Internet so anything you want you can get if you know how. could find and then working out what they could do with It was a challenge.

Working under the nickname Kuji - the name of his cat and a martial arts death blow - he and the 16-year-old north London schoolboy Richard Pryce, who signed himself Datastream Cowboy, allegedly caused untold damage in March 1994.

Sources close to the American investigation, however, cast doubts on his claim to have been solely motivated by interest in aliens. This was treated as serious incident. There might have been a matter of seeing what they

line to trick BT software into thinking a call was over. He had also installed a device to clear the line of tell-

tale static whenever his mother picked up the extension while he was at work on the £700 Omega 500 and 1200 models with which he did most of his damage.

His Holy Grail was to prove the conspiracy theory that alien spacecraft are stored in conditions of strict secrecy at Area 51 of Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio — as suggested in the science fiction film Independence Day. Although he claims to have seen convincing evidence of their presence, no evidence is forthcoming.

He attacked military sites with "sniffer" and "password cracker" programs to gain entry to state-of-the-art computers. Once in they sought out the systems administrators' log-ons, copyied them and became invisible to others on the network.

Their traces were covered by hitting their targets from many different countries and through a false trail of up to half a dozen other computers. Bevan still believes investigators would never have caught



his own identity to an infor-mant, and held Bevan's telephone number on one of his files seized by police. "I would never have been found. Their

security people had no idea." His immodest claims are partially supported by a de-tailed US Air Force Office of Special Investigations dossier presented by the OSI's former computer crime unit head, Jim Christy, to a Senate committee, last year.

He admitted that both had penetrated and compromised" Rome Laboratories. the US Air Force's premier command and control research facility at Griffiss Air

Force Base in New York. Connecting to commercial Internet providers in Seattle and New York, they accessed other sensitive targets includ-ing Nasa's Goddard Space Flight Centre in Maryland, Wright Patterson and an attempt on Nato's Brussels headquarters. The OSI con-cluded: "From conduct observed through investigators' monitoring, Kuji was a far more sophisticated hacker than the 16-yearold Datastream. He would only stay on a telephone line a short time, not long enough to

be traced successfully." Pryce was arrested at his parents home in Colindale, north London in May 1994 and Bevan in June last year. All his equipment was seized, leading, he admits, to with-drawal symptoms. "It is all about control, really. I'm in my little room with my little computer breaking into the biggest computers in the world and suddenly I have more control over this machine than them. That is where the buzz comes from. Anyone who says they are a reformed hacker is talking rubbish. If you are a hacker, you are always a hacker. It's a state of

Colonel attacks Army over son's tank death

A SENIOR army officer whose son was killed in a military training accident had just weeks earlier because his unit had descended into a "leaderiess rabbie", an inquest

was told yesterday. Corporal Nicholas Guignard, 23, a technician with the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers (REME), was crushed to death as he repaired the main gun on a

exercise on Salishury Plain.
The soldier, working with the 1st Royal Tank Regiment. was crushed under the breech of the gun as he connected a faulty power supply unit to the mains while sitting inside the tank. Cross-wiring in the unit caused the barrel to flail up and down violently.

After the accident, the Army's Board of Enquiry made ten safety recommendations, including annual safety refresher courses and a new system of labelling parts as they went for repair.

Recording a verdict of mis-adventure, David Masters, the Wiltshire Coroner, recommended an overhaul of the system for repairing vehicles. "I want to put an emphasis on the urgency of implementing



Lieutenant-Colonel Bernard Guignard said the unit in which his son Nicholas served seemed a rabble

the recommendations of the tanks because his normal Board of Enquiry," he said. This enquiry has manifestly pointed up defects in the systems of repairing line replacement equipment."

Lieutenant-Colonel Bernard Guignard, who retired in October after 35 years' service with REME, told the inquest at Salisbury Guildhall: "Nicholas told me he wasn't using the proper manuals and was making do with précis, which was anathema to me as a professional engineer. When I asked what his supervisor said about this, he told me he was training his supervisor in

supervisor was elsewhere. The more questions I asked the more I became concerned that there was no level of effective management beyond his sergeant. I thought they had

become a leaderless rabble." Once his son had told him he had nearly died when a tank came dangerously close to tipping over and crushing him. Another time he had nearly been crushed by a tank

while in his sleeping-bag. The Ministry of Defence said that it would take full consideration of the coroner's recommendations.

Lack of student nurses 'poses threat to NHS'

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

the fall in applications from young women to enter the pro-lession. There are now more training places on offer than students applying to fill them. and the dropout rate is growing, with one in four failing to finish the three-year course.

Figures from the English National Board, which oversees the profession, show that there were 15,362 successful applications for the 16,126 training places last year. Pre-viously, the number eligible for training outweighed the number of student places.

Even numbers inquiring about the profession are falling fast. Two years ago, 33,000 application packs were sent to young people asking about a career in nursing. Last year, 25,000 requested information.

The low number of applicants and the high dropout rate mean that the number of nurses aged under 25 has fallen: there are now more nurses on the register over retirement age than there are nurses un-der-25. According to the Royal College of Nursing. some 9,000 nurses are expected to qualify next year, compared

with 37,000 15 years ago. Although the number of registered nurses has risen slightly in recent years this is

THE National Health Service because so many are being could be facing a serious employed who are trained shortage of nurses because of elsewhere. The number of British trained nurses continues to fall. There are 600,000 nurses on the register, but of these up to 35,000 are not working in nursing.

As the number of female

nurses falls, the proportion of male murses is rising. They now represent almost 10 per cent of those on the register, and are no longer predomin-antly working in mental health; a growing proportion are in children's wards.

"Everyone should be wor-ried by the fall in the numbers training," a spokesman for the UK.Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting said. There has never been a period when there were so many competing jobs available for the sort of person who

would make a good nurse.
Older, qualified people were increasingly returning to work after having a child, she said, but there are not enough young people being trained now to ensure we have an adequate number of nurses in the future".

Pippa Gough, assistant di-rector of nursing policy at the RCN, said: "This is a grave situation and it is getting worse. We're heading for the worst shortages since the start

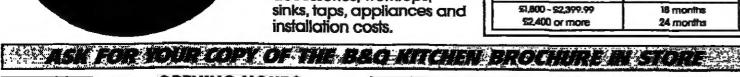


When Seymour Hersh began investigating President John Kennedy's notorious sex life, he found a level of debauchery that far exceeded expectations. The witnesses, however, were unassailable: a former mistress and his Secret -Service bodyguards

News Review

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NOVEMBER 22 1997 THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997 Passengers are reminded that smoking is obligatory Non-smoker Damian Whitworth found his head in the clouds when he joined tobacco enthusiasts on a

special flight to Amsterdam THE problem: the European ' they were relieved they were pro-smoking lobby is holding its biannual conference in Amsterdam this weekend, but there are no flights from London to The Netherlands on

There were two non-smokers on the flight. The first, bizarrely, was the press officer for Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (Forest) who had chartered the plane. The sec-

The solution: they hired their

own plane and smoked for Britain.

not going on this trip. Then, as we gathered in London yesterday, the director of Forest.
Marjorie Nicholson, said
cheerfully that I was "very
brave" and presented me with a face mask before we set off. Just how much smoke could

Stepping aboard the coach to Biggin Hill from where our flight departed I entered a fug immediately reminiscent of the short time I once spent in a small room with Lord Harris of High Cross and his pipe. As I waded through to a seat, the Even the most furious smoke cleared briefly and smokers at The Times said there was Lord Harris, in



In drag: members of Forest donned 1930s gear

trademark deerstalker, chug-

ging on his pipe. At Biggin Hill it was noticeable that most of the women had fox furs draped around their shoulders and the men were wearing 1930s suits and trilbies. The idea was to hark back to a time of greater

wrapped up in using the organs of the state to dictate to people how they should live their lives," explained Martin Ball, the non-smoking press

In keeping with this theme the aircraft was also from that age. A 1940s DC-3 was waiting on the runway. A fire engine was parked alongside.

On board fingers tapped nervously and ears strained for the magic words "you are now free to smoke". We took off noisily, the announcement was made and two dozen

lighters clicked on as one. At 10,000 feet it was freezing and we entered the clouds, both outside and inside the

Large drinks were poured and the delegates luxuriated in their plumes of smoke. The flight was an hour and 40 minutes. The journey takes about an hour on a modern plane it seems hard to believe that it is not possible to last that long without a cigarette. "Some people can't." said Ms

Nicholson.
"I'm a fugitive from persecution," declared Lord Harris. who is chairman of Forest. Tolerance on both sides is what is wanted. There is no need for there to be a war." The conference, which is **DOCTORS CALL FOR BAN**

The credibility of the Government's commitment to tackle the health menace of tobacco has been undermined by the debate over sport sponsorship, doctors' leaders said yesterday (Ian Murray writes). Launching an alliance of

proving public health". A 80 national organisations in sport is to be discussed that want a comprehensive Europe-wide ban on all at the Health Council in forms of tobacco advertis-Brussels on December 4. ing. Sandy Macara, chair-man of the British Medical Leaders of the alliance are Association, said the de-

organised by the umbrella organisation Smokepeace, will discuss the problems experienced by smokers throughout Europe and as far afield as Asia and the United States. Groups will plot tactics recruiting sympathisers

and handling the media and

onslaughts from the many

to meet Mr Blair next

bate over the past few

weeks on the tobacco

sponsorship of sport "has

undermined the credibility

of the Government's com-

mitment to tackling the

tobacco menace and im-

European Directive bau-

ning tobacco advertising

there will be time off for plenty of serious puffing. Quite how seriously some people take the issue was brought into focus by George Oliver. 69, and his wife Maisie, 68. They had never been abroad before this trip, or in a plane. But when their

to a foreign holiday to celebrate their golden wedding, they chose to join the Forest

expedition. We went to look at holidays but the travel agent said there was no smoking on the flights. Then my daughter heard about this," Maisie said. "So we joined Forest and we

George, a former tree surgeon from Hertford, smokes between 40 and 50 cigarettes a day, while Maisie has ten to 25. Both started smoking

when they were 14. I was gasping when we touched down, but for clean air not a cigarette. Forest fly back with them on Monday but I explained that I had to return earlier and would have to forgo the cosy chimneyinterior atmosphere of their

> Bernard Levin Weekend, page 7

Lawyer's career in ruins after lie to save lover

THE career of a Crown Prosecution Service solicitor is in ruins after an Old Bailey jury yesterday found her guilty of perverting the course of

ks Army

ık death

Penelope Schofield, 35, wept as the jury decided she had piled lie upon upon lie to protect her policeman lover from a drink-driving charge. Her own defence council said her behaviour had been "despicable and indefensible".

Schofield, of Hambledon, Hampshire, now faces being struck off after a disciplinary hearing of the Law Society. She also faces a CPS hearing.

She will be sentenced next month after social inquiry reports when she will again stand in the dock with her onetime boyfriend, Nigel Phillips, a former detective constable, who had pleaded guilty to hearing. The judge, Sir Lawrence Verney, the Recorder of London, asked for the reports to cover the possibility of community service "without in any way suggesting that

will be the outcome". The woman who helped put Schofield in the Old Bailey dock is Detective Constable Annie Hutchinson. She was dating Mr Phillips, 31, before he set up home with the lawyer. She came forward with new evidence to prove



Schofield: told court she had lost everything

police a vital lead in their vestigation.

Nicholas Campbell, for the prosecution, told the court "It may be implied that in some She had lost her man and she was going to take her revenge by making her suffer."
She had come forward to

say that Schofield had taken the taxi alone that night. "She came forward with evidence to assist the police that the couple had lied." But Mr Campbell said, the woman police detective had been acting pro-Schofield said in a state-

ment read out to the court: "Now I have lost everything my career, my job with the

Crown Prosecution Service and it is likely that I will be struck off by the Law Society. I have worked extremely hard to get those qualifications and my whole life has revolved

around the legal profession.
"I am ashamed of what I have done and of the shame it has brought on my family. [did it for Nigel out of stupidity, without thinking of the consequences."

The court was told that Schofield began her deceit after she had accompanied Phillips to a CID dinner dance at the De Vere Harbour Hotel in Southampton last December. As the band played, she thought Phillips was becom-ing over-familiar with a policewoman; they quarrelled and she left.

Phillips carried on drinking before deciding to drive the 13 miles to the home they shared together. But after four miles Bitterne Police Station where he was based - he hit a kerb and punctured one of his

He drove the car into the station car park and entered the building where colleagues saw he was drunk and he was arrested, breathalysed and found to be three times over the drink-drive limit. In the station, he made several calls to Schofield and persuaded her to agree she had been driving up to the time of the



Burglary victims' £5m flutter pays off

By PAUL WHITTAKER

IT MAY have seemed liked an oddson loser to most, but a small number of burglary victims who attended yesterday's 20th police stolen proper-ty roadshow at Epsom Racecourse came away winners. However, the 37 lucky punters who had identified

their stolen valuables by the after-noon may have to wait months to collect, depending on whether they need to be used as evidence in court.

With statistics showing a home in Britain is buregled every two minutes, it was little surprise that record crowds gathered for the biggest yet Operation Bumblebee roadshow.

More than 600 people poured into the Queen's Stand in the first two hours to view the collection, worth

more than £5 million. Stolen goods included a £10,000 horse-drawn carriage, a £25,000 17thcentury painting, a jet ski and a 1987 Zeebrugge ferry disaster commemorative medal. One of the day's winners, May Clark, a district nurse from Southend, Essex, found two heirlooms left to her by her mother which were stolen in 1993.

Mrs Clark, 50, who identified a gold brooch and a beart-shaped locket, said: "It was a real gamble coming here. I was not very hopeful I would ever see these items again."



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Prisoners in a 'human zoo'

Tourists are contributing to Thai slavery writes Andrew

Drummond





Abducted Paduang, left, are held captive as others in a refugee camp, right, await news of them

WOMEN from a remote Burmese hill tribe who are renowned for their long necks are being used as exhibits in a human 200 in Thailand, where they sought refuge after fleeing from Burma's military junta. Three of the villagers, who have been found by The Times, are alleged to have died after being deprived of medical attention.

The women, from Kayah state in Burma, went missing a year ago. having been kidnapped by Thai businessmen and placed under armed guard on land controlled by the Thai Army just over the border from Burma near the village of Thaton, on the River Kok.

Tourists, who have been paying E4 a head to view the women, are told by guides that the families are living free under the care of the Thai military, which has given them the land to live on.

But their families say that they have been sold into slavery. They are paid £3 a month per family by a That businessman to look their best for tourists. Their captors sell them make-up, which they insist the women wear, and aspirin derivatives if they fall ill.

The discovery of the camp comes as Thailand is promoting longnecked women as a tourist attraction for "Amazing Thailand Year". an international publicity cam-paign. The women told The Times they had been beaten regularly and their husbands had been forced to work for the Thai Army, digging after by the Karen Refugee Com-



trenches on the Burma border. Civilian guards near the camp had immediate access to MI6 weapons and hand-held mortars.

The captives are members of the Padaung hill tribe, an offshoot of the Karen, an ethnic minority who fought with the British Chindits against the Japanese in the Second World War. Since then, they have been fighting the Burmese military dictatorship for their own state.

The group of Padaung, originally 34 in strength, fled Burma in August last year, leaving their Kayah stare village of Panpet in Deemawso township. For ten days, friendly units of the rebel Karen army monitored the group as it followed a well-worn route to the Karen refugee camp of Baan Na Soi. There, other long-necked hilltribe relatives are being looked

mittee in the relative safety of another tourist village that they help to administer themselves. It has since been learnt, however, that, only a few miles short of their destination, the fleeing group was put into minibuses with tinted windows and driven out of the area. Karen intelligence sources discovered that the guide - once a Mae Hong Song tourist guide had sold them, and absconded with the proceeds.

'We sent our troops after him but they got the news six hours too late," said Aung Myat, the deputy chairman of the Karen Refugee Committee in Mae Hong Son.

Three months ago, Karen refugee officials were given the first evidence of the plight of their missing people. They received a tape from a tourist who had visited Pakphongchai and been asked to deliver it to the refugee centre.

The tape began with the sound of Padaung women singing a dirge, but then cut to the voice of a woman pleading for help. "Please come now. Things cannot be any worse," she said. "We would rather die than live here." For 30 minutes a succession of men and women poured out their complaints. "We are beaten when they see us writing or trying to talk to tourists secret-



ه كذا من رلامل

ly," a voice said. Another complained: "They won't let us leave. They guard us with guns." One said: "We don't want to see these people visiting and smiling and aughing at us. We want to be with

our own people."
Yet another said: "I feel so sorry when foreigners come and ask about our children's schooling. They won't let us take our children to school. We cannot eat the food they give us. They shout and scream if we do not make the foreigners happy."

Families in the Baan Na Soi camp recognised the voices of their relatives. Zaw Thet, the only Padaung member on the refugee committee and a former rebel officer, travelled north to investigate. "When I got there, there were 40 armed men at the gates. They had Mios and machineguns. They pointed their guns at me and

refused me entrance," he said. Despite several attempts by the Karen Refugee Committee to have the families released, the only action taken by the authorities in Chiang Mai province was to arrest the Padaung women and charge them with working illegally. They were then immediately sent back to work in the camp after the businessman, Thana Nakluang, paid their bail. He was also charged with using illegal labour, but the maximum fine he faces is less than

empty. At the gates the Padaung rushed to touch Zaw Thet. The guards were compelled to let him in the takings from a bus of tourists. so the Padaung would at least After an appeal from within Kayah state, I visited the camp as a return to the tourist viewing area. The Padaung confirmed the allegations they had made on the tape. A camp manager in dark glasses nicknamed Muu — Thai for pig —

into the huts, bemused to find them

denied the brutality. "Don't believe

they are not happy here and that

of money. Look in their huts. We and an official appointed to treat them very well," he shouted. "Just ask them." We did. All said investigate child exploitation. After paying the entrance fee, I they wanted to leave immediately.

entered the camp with the Thai The Karen committee and Thai official and was able discreetly to deliver a message in Burmese and play a tape of Zaw Thet talking to his people in Padaung. The camp village emptied as the Padaung families, at first incredulous, rushed to the gates apparently officials had to leave the camp with the arrival of Tourist Police friendly to the owner, and after the scarcely veiled threat of having their pictures taken by Nakluang's camp guards. believing they were to be freed. Newly arrived tourists looked

Zaw Thet said: "Only public opinion and good Thai citizens can help our people now. The Padaung are not animals, but proud people with fierce traditions. This is a mockery of them."

☐ Andrew Drummond has spent a considerable time on the Thai-Burma border reporting on the ethnic rebels' fight for survival. He has reported on the Karens' 50-year war for BBC2's Everyman, and on Khun Sa, the opium warlord, for the ITV network.

6 We don't want these people visiting and laughing at us. We want to be with our own people ?

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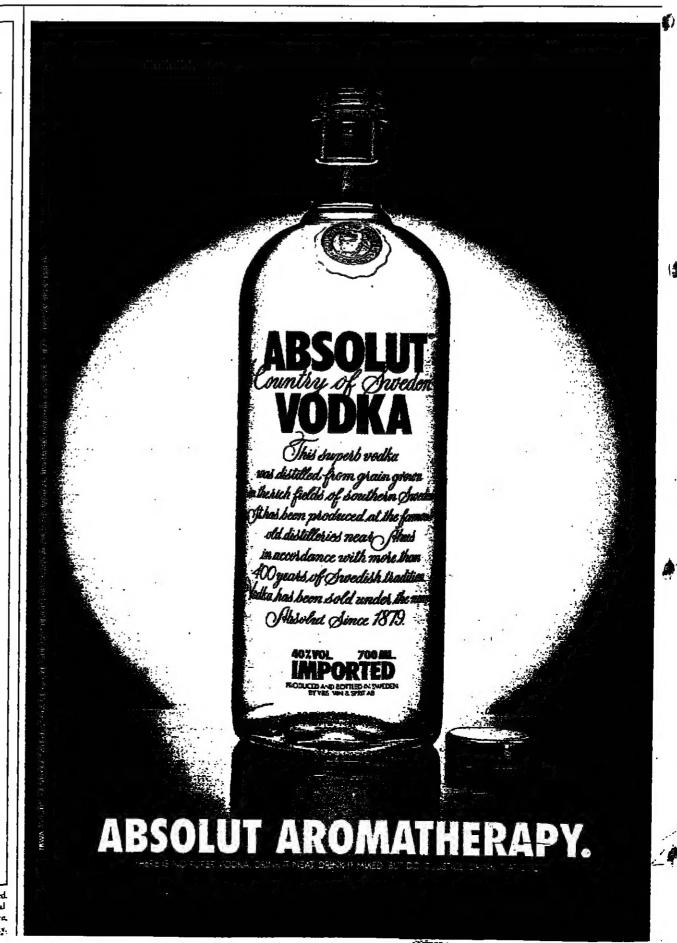


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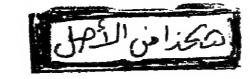
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A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE QUEEN

Bouquets and smiles: at ease among her people



The Queen at the Royal Gala at the Festival Hall on Wednesday, left, and meeting Chelsea Pensioners on her relaxed and informal walkabout with the Prime Minister on the way to the Banqueting House luncheon on Thursday



The royal walkabout on Thursday dispensed with the usual stock banalities

IF THERE was a defining moment of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh's golden wedding anniversary celebrations on Thursday, it came shortly before noon.

Fresh from the solemnities of thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey, the royal couple emerged from the Great West Door under a leaden November sky and, as planned, headed for the crowd corralled behind crush barriers across the street. It held every promise of a stock royal walkabout, with its standard banalities of "Have you come far?" and "Have you been waiting

Suddenly, someone in the crowd handed the Queen a balloon, it was one of those helium-filled novelties that stays aloft at the end of its

The Hanoverian scowl has disappeared in what appears to be an overnight change of royal style.

Alan Hamilton reports on a rejuvenated monarch

string. The Queen is well used to accepting posies and bouquets from the multitude, which she accepts graciously and immediately passes to the nearest courtier or policewoman, with a polite smile to the donor. But the balloon was different; the Queen hung on to it for the best part of a minute, and for that brief moment she looked more relaxed, more at ease with herself and her world, than

she has done for years.

Was this the same scowly, jowly Hanoverian we used to know, the distant lady with the strangulated vowels — which she would have called "viles"— that was our hereditary head of state? Was this the same Head of the Commonwealth who used to read duty speeches with head fixed downwards on text, who at the Banqueting House on Thursday looked us — or at the least television camera — square in the eye and told us that she

was open to change?

It is indeed the same head of state whose job has been to symbolise the United Kingdom for 45 years, whose first Prime Minister was Winston Churchill and who is now on her tenth. But whatever has happened to the royal body language? Suddenly it speaks to us. Has there been an overnight change of royal style, or are we all so captivated by the new Labour notion

of People's Britain that we see what we want to see? Or has the monarch been got at by the Blair image-massagers?

Probably none of those. A golden wedding anniversary is a cause of celebration for anyone who has endured the same partner for half a century, and who still draws strength, comfort and plea-

the best figurehead we have got, or are likely to have in her lifetime 9

sure from the union, as the Queen and Prince Philip patently do. In their respective speeches, he spoke of her tolerance, she of his strength. Public though it may have been, the golden wedding was, for the Queen, essentially a personal occasion. And it was an uncontroversial one; few, whatever their views on the future of hereditary monar-

chy, were likely to make adverse capital out of half a

century of successful mar-

riage. She was on safe ground.

She looked a little severe at

when her husband paid an elegant tribute to her tolerance. (He, on the other hand, clearly enjoyed her return compliment to him the following day, alluding to the fact that he was a crusty old stick, but no less a rock for that). But at all other times during the week's festivities, we have watched a hanny monarch.

This is not entirely new: it is

simply that we do not always notice it. What we do vaguely appreciate, however, is that Elizabeth II improves with age. The improvement began when she stopped colouring her hair and howed to the inevitable of distinguished silver-grey. The improvement was instant, and dramatic.

Being head of state and

Head of the Commonwealth requires, when abroad, a certain dignified bearing. But the Queen had never looked so spontaneously happy on any overseas tour within living memory as when she was welcomed by Nelson Mandela to the new post-apartheid South Africa in 1994.

The reasons were threefold. She had a huge personal admiration for Mandela; she is delighted for any country to be readmitted to her beloved Commonwealth; and she recalled her last visit to South Africa with her father in 1947, shortly before her wedding, when she made a memorable

broadcast from Cape Town on her 21st birthday pledging herself to a life of service.

That she has not smiled so much recently is hardly surprising, for serpents and brimstone have rained upon her land in abundance. The divorces of three of her children, the burning of her favourite home and the taxpayer's clear unwillingness to foot the bill, would have been enough by themselves. But then, at the time of the tragic death of Diana. Princess of Wales, she was criticised for staying at Baimoral, where she was doing her best to comfort her bereaved grandsons.

When she did come back to London, she looked us in the eye in a live broadcast that was, in the circumstances, something of a tour de force. The woodenness of her Christmas broadcasts had gone. She gazed straight at the camera (autocues are a wonderful invention, but they do need a little practice) and told us Continued on page 9



TIME FOR BED

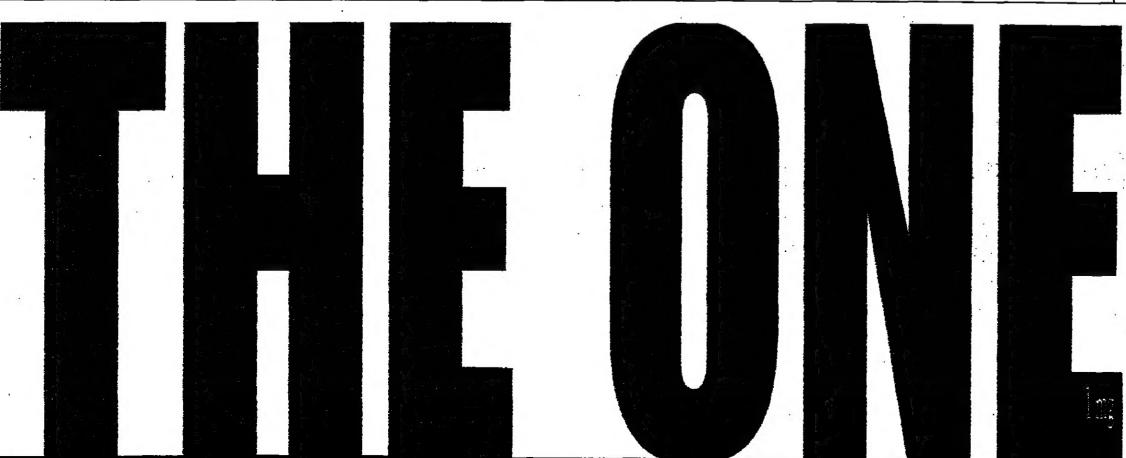
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A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE QUEEN



The Duke of Edinburgh showing no signs of crustiness as he meets the people on Thursday's walkabout from Downing Street to the Banqueting House luncheon

Continued from page 8 directly, without any apparent benefit of spin-doctors, that she grieved for Diana, but that she was a grandmother whose

first duty was to her family. The death of the Princess unleashed a weird and frightening tide of emotion in the country. What it did not unleash was a wave of republicanism; the country, it its moment of loss, wanted its mother. It wanted its Queen. the nation's atavistic soul, the tion of being set in aspic. She

monarchy can still satisfy a need. We perceived a new, rejuvenated Queen, 71 years old and blooming, at her golden wedding.
We have heard tabloid

hyperbole about charm offensives, new brooms, need to change to survive, and other doubtful invention. The Queen has been fine-tuning the monarchy for years, and although the pace of change may be too slow for some, no one could accuse the institu-

pays income tax now. All her relatives are off the Civil List, and the taxpayer now funds only herself, her husband and her mother (to whom we would surely not begrudge a decent pension).

She funded three quarters of the Windsor fire restoration by charging hoi-polloi to tramp round her homes. And her household is now run, not by titled courtiers, but by as hard-headed a bunch of City money men as you will find anywhere. She has reluctantly

parted with her boat, and may soon lose her train. She is becoming a slimmed-down monarch, prey to the modern climate of ruthless business efficiency. Anyone who says the Royal Family is a profii-

gate waste of money has not read the balance sheet lately. But the point about the Queen is that there might be minor changes of style, but her core values do not change. She is under siege from Brussels. which wishes to dilute British sovereignty, and from the

Dover - Calais

northern half of her kingdom. which if it ever moved to full independence would not automatically choose her or her successor as Heid O'State. For the nation state of the

United Kingdom as at present constituted, however, she remains the best figurehead we have got, or are likely to have in her lifetime. Her 10th Prime Minister, in his speech at the Banqueting House on Thursday, acknowledged that there were few shrewder cookies about, and that her advice

Newhaven - Dieppe

was always worth listening to. Queen Elizabeth has a husband who adores her, a Prime Minister who is an out-and-out monarchist (although she should be careful that he does not use her for his own political ends), and a public who, now that the fog of recent mass emotion is clearing, still value their monarch. That seems more than enough to

> Leading article and Letters, page 23



The Queen, radiant in red, at the Guildhall lunch



All smiles with her "Happy Anniversary" balloon

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The next generation of ferry company



Chris Hession with a sample of Irish seaweed: "This has got everything that people want — it is organic, low in fat, high in vitamins and studies show that it helps longevity"

Seaweed farm caters for rising tide of sushi

For centuries it has been the poor man's

FARMERS in the West of Ireland may shortly abandon traditional sheep and cattle husbandry to grow seaweed for sushi bars in Tokyo and London. The first commercial seaweed farm in the British Isles will be set up next month off the Galway coast by farmers and scientists keen to capitalise on the surge in international demand for the slithery weed called "sea vegetables".

Ireland has 560 types of seaweed, of which only dulse has traditionally been eaten. The rest is left to rot or harvested for manure, food additives or soothing hot baths in Kerry and Donegal. Now scientists at the University of Galway, have found among the Irish weeds Porphyra linearis and Alaria esculenta, otherwise known as nori and wakame, the most popular seaweeds in sushi bars.

ation, said that the potential for

food and fertiliser in Ireland, but now it is being grown for an international market worth £2.3 billion, reports Audrey Magee Irish Seaweed Industry Organiswho is based at the university. "All

we have to do now is get it

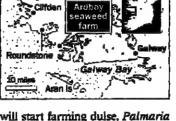
right and produce a tasty Irish success in the \$4 billion (£2.38 billion) seaweed market was enormods. In 1994, Japan imported Production of wakame, used in a almost half the 223,000 tonnes of wide range of Japanese foods, seaweed consumed and it is increasingly popular in Europe and the United States. This has got everything that people want: it is not an animal fat,

including miso soup, starts in Galway next month. For the past three years, the UCG team, funded by the Irish Government and the European Union, have been perit is organic, it is low in fat, high in fecting the genetic make-up of vitamins and studies show that it wakame, nori and dulse. They are already producing Asparagopsis

aimata, a seaweed used in cosmetics.

The seeds are planted in a bath of seawater, where they wrap around string as they grow. The young plants are transferred to the sea at Ardbay, Connemara, and attached to ropes suspended near the surface of the sea, allowing maximum light without desiccation.

The Galway team hopes to produce two crops of wakame a year, eventually selling 50g of seaweed at £4 to £20. Next year it



will start farming dulse, Palmaria palmata, and nori, which is used to wrap the rolls of sushi. Most of the seaweed consumed in the world is farmed in China, Japan and other Asian countries. A company in Brittany grows the plant for cos-

Michael Ward will be the first farmer in Ireland to try growing wakame. He is already producing Asparagopsis armata for a French company making anti-burn cream. computer programmer and part-

time farmer originally from Glas-gow, he will shortly get young wakame plants from the university to plant in his lot in Ardbay. The Japanese have 5,000 years

experience growing this, so that puts them slightly ahead of us, but we are convinced that we can quickly learn and catch up," he

However, Hiromitsu Mochizuki, owner of the sushi bar in Harrods, who imports his wakame and nori from Japan, doubts that the Irish can match the Japanese standards. Ten years ago I tasted seaweed from Scotland, but it was hard and chewy," he said. "The different seawater and plankton around Scotland and Ireland make the texture much harder. The flavour is

more bitter. "But I am very happy to try it when it is ready. Then we shall

NEWS IN BRIEF

New DNA tests in **Brittany** killer hunt

Gene samples from men aged 35 to 60 are being taken from men in the Brittany village of Pieine Fougeres by French police investigating the killing of Caroline Dickinson in July last year.

Caroline, 13, was raped and murdered in a hostel dormitory while on a school trip from Launceston Community College, Cornwall. Last month 169 maie villagers aged 15 to 35 gave DNA samples, but all proved nega tive when compared with the killer's genetic fingerprint.

Boys in court

Three boys of 10 and 11 the manslaughter of a woman when fire swept through bedsits above an offlicence. They were remanded on bail by Brent Youth Court. North London.

£20.000 award

Lisa De Smet, 28, was awarded £19,800 by Hove County Court after her scalp was chemically burnt while she was having her hair bleached by a hairdresser in Brighton. She had to have five skingrafts and is still scarred.

Tory couple split

The Conservative MP Ste phen Day and his wife, Frances, have separated after 15 years. Mr Day, MP for Cheadle, blamed the pres-sure of parliamentary work and both said that nobody else was involved.

Smoker's suicide

Raymond Bateman, 53, a heavy smoker, hanged himself because he thought he had lung cancer, but an inquest in Bristol was told that a post-mortem examina-tion had found no trace of cancer in his body.

Diana inquiry

The BBC has begun an inquiry into how a film about Diana, Princess of Wales was sold as a video of the Teletubbies. A shopper in Glasgow was twice sold the film inside a Here Come The



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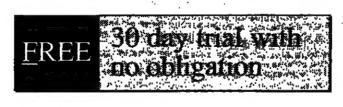
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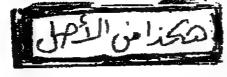
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NEWS IN BRIEF Brittany killer hunt

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£20,000 award

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THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

Mandelson spins a tale of the century

A glossy brochure contains Labour's hard-sell on the £750m Millennium Dome, writes Nicholas Wood

IT PROMISES to be the most speciacular event anywhere in the world. You will travel on a theatrical journey, taking you from the past far into the future. Breathtaking soundand-light effects will combine with the excitement of live performance for a spectacular and inspirational experience.

And if you think that sounds like the patter from a sales brochure, you are right. Amid mounting criticism of the informational black hole at the centre of the £750 million Millennium Dome, Peter Mandelson, the minister in charge, has approved publication of the first official description of the "fun and fascination" awaiting the nation when the dome opens on New Year's Eve 1999.

At a cost of £40,000 for an initial print run of 50,000 copies, the brochure will be made available to the public on Thursday with the opening of the Dome visitor centre at the Royal Naval College in Greenwich. It will be regularly updated as the project unfolds and the 12 designers and their business sponsors get down to detailed work on the nine "exhibition zones" inside the outer rim of the

The eight-page brochure, masterminded by the Saatchi brothers, is strong on slick, futuristic images of Britain, but light on detail about the contents of the dome. In addition to the time-travel show in the 10,000-seater central arena to be produced by Sir Cameron Mackintosh, the



The cover of the new eight-page brochure

impresario who produced Cats and Miss Saigon, it promises the latest interactive technology to help visitors to the exhibition zones explore the world of 2000 and beyond. "Discover who we are, what we are and where we will be

going in the future," the brochure says. It also reinforces Tony Blair's vision of Britain as a young country, with pictures of children, dancers, video

screens and trendy young people dominating the text. In an interview with The Times, Mr Mandelson made no apology for his grandiose ambitions for the dome, twice the size of Wembley Stadium, which the brochure suggests should be fit to stand comparison with such architectural wonders as the Pantheon and St Peter's Basilica in Rome

and St Paul's Cathedral."It



An earlier dome at the 1951 Festival of Britain, a

Best UK building is in ... Germany

By Marcus Binney, architecture correspondent

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BRITAIN'S building of the year is in Germany. Faced with the fact that many of the most exciting buildings by British architects are now £20,000 Stirling Prize has Music School in Stattgart by

been awarded to the new Michael Wilford & partners. The judges from the Royal Institute of British Architects

acclaimed the design as an example of the now "neglected British monumental tradition, from Sir Edwin Lutyens through Sir Basil Spence and Sir Denys Lasdon to Sir

James Stirling". The £40 million school was the last building on which Sir James was working before his death, with his partner and successor Michael

Wilford. The school is part of Stuttgart's Cultural Mile and Wilford's Staatsgalerie, one of the most acclaimed buildings of the 1980s.

Many had expected the award to go to Chris Wilkinson, the fastest rising star in British architecture, or to the current enfant terrible, Will

But there is an added frisson in the fact that the Stirling prize goes to a building by the a the architect it was

The Music School has nine floors of teaching and practice rooms with a concert ball in the rotunda - a dear homage to the great Swedish architect Gunnar

has to be a big statement. It has to take people's breath away. Otherwise, nobody would notice it. We want to be noticed. That's the whole

He also confirmed that the dome was a key part of the Prime Minister's big idea to rebrand Britain as the most dynamic, entrepreneurial and forward-looking place on

The vision we have for Britain we want to be captured in the dome is of an ambitious, can-do, optimistic and meritocratic society. It is a Britain that is admired herause we make the most innovative products, because we are at the cutting edge of architec-ture, of design, or marketing.

"All the most positive, for-ward-looking things about Britain we want to be highlighted. The eyes of the world will be on Britain because we are the home of time, because we are blazing a trail into the new millennium through this experience and this tremendous construction and engineering achievement, which will be the most famous build-



How the £750 million dome in Greenwich will look. It should incorporate "all the most positive, forward-looking things about Britain"

We are taking a great event the Millennium - and using that opportunity to redefine ourselves as a forwardlooking, confident country that is leading the way."

ing offered to the world in the in 1951 and the Great Exhibition of 1851, the dome will be an "expression of national

> renewal and pride". In keeping with Mr Mandelson's vision, the brochure is thin on British history, with only Greenwich's place as the home of the prime

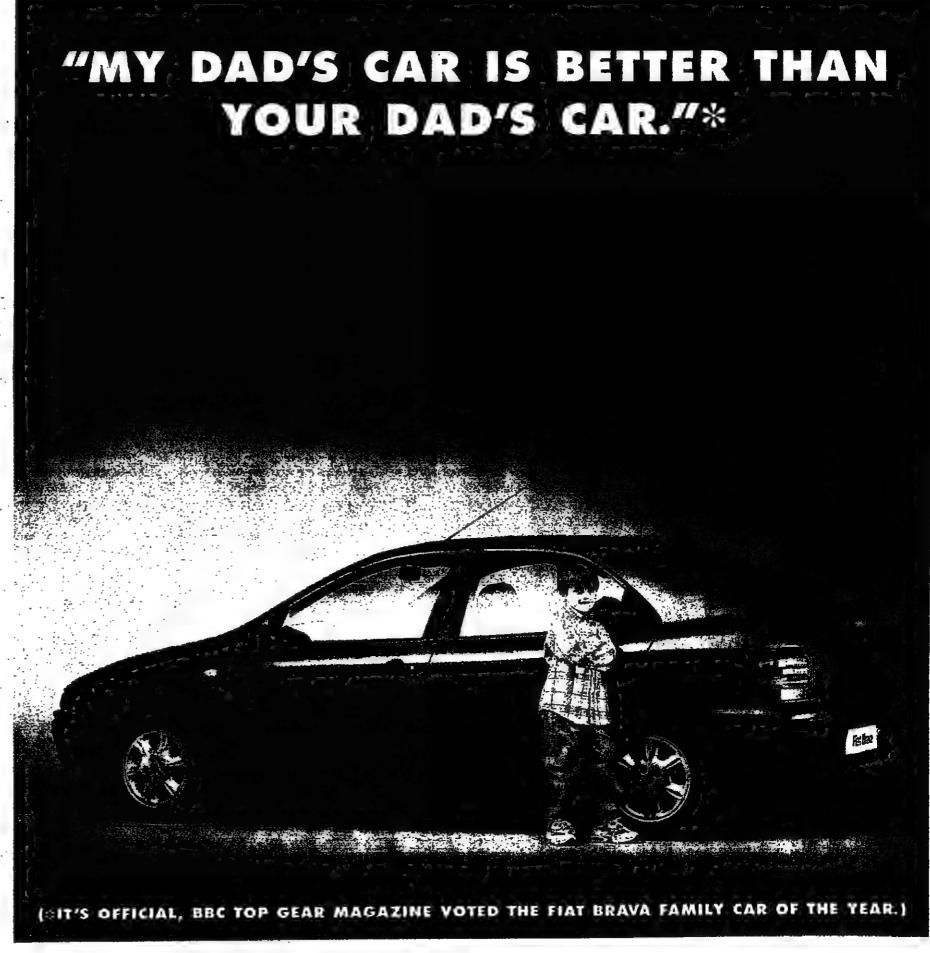
meridian being highlighted, But Mr Mandelson denied that he was abandoning the nation's roots, "It doesn't shun the past. It tells a story about time, about how we arrived at

"Passing into a new millennium is an occasion for people

to think about the future. Rather than defining ourselves by our past, as Britain has tended to do, when it has spoken of warm beer, village greens, country cricket, we are fining ourselves by the

"We have got to persuade

or adopting a new image, but by being a society that has genuinely revitalised itself." That way will come new investment, new jobs, new visitors and - although he does not say it - another term



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(Put a cardboard box next to the photo above. See, no resemblance whatsoever.) It's also because the Brava's interior combines all the features you could want in a family car, with the style you expect to find in a sports car.

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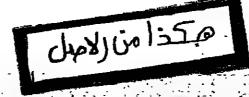
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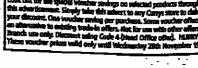
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MY NOVEMBER 22 190

Baldwin: political aims

Actor seeks a new role

CONFIRMING that political life in America has sunk to a new nadir, the actor Alec Baldwin (known almost exclusively as the husband of the film star Kim Basinger) has revealed that he has gubernatorial ambitions.

In an interview with New York magazine this week, Baldwin, who has never quite managed to break into Hollywood's first division, gibbers: What's the job I'd want to have? I'd say Senate. Governor. I'd love to be Governor of New York. It would be great." Overheated observers have

wasted no time in calling Baldwin "the Democratic Ronald Reagan".

Heroine of a rape saga HER demeanour is gentle, her features soft, her voice like the sound of a brittle TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S flute. Adrienne Bak Ortolano

is New York's latest, and quietest, heroine. Eleven years ago, aged 16, she was raped in the front seat of a car by someone from her school who had offered to drive her home from a party. His name was Alex Kelly. He was then 19, the most glamorous boy in their affluent Connecticut town, and he threatened to "do it again and

anyone about the atrack.
She stumbled horne, battered and bleeding, and told her supportive parents about what had happened. The police were informed and Kelly, soon to be dubbed the preppie rapist, fled the country to avoid trial, spend-

POLITICAL correctness has arrived

with a vengeance at some of New York's

crustiest private schools, which have all now abolished the use of the grade "F"

for fail — in their marking systems.

The old blunt way has been dismissed

as "insufficiently nurturing" by teachers. Instead, they will use an assortment

of amusing euphemisms in an attempt

kill her" if she ever told

can sentencing process, she said, weeping openly in court: "I have been living in con-

The Brearley School has opted for the label "weak". The Nightingale-Bamford

School, however, has plumped for NS (needs strengthening); the Calhoun School for NGA (not grade-appropriate); the Brooklyn Friends for NAG (needs

additional growth), and the Trevor Day School for RT (requires teaching). There

is, as yet, no talk of abolishing the "A"

ing the next nine years on the run in Europe. But his victim, whose mansuetude masks a will of iron, swore that she would one day send her rapist may look OK, but inside I am to prison. And she did.

In July this year, after a harrowing trial in which she gave testimony, Adrienne, now Mrs Ortolano, captured New York's imagination by asking the judge to show Kelly no mercy. In her victim-impact statement, a feature of the Ameri-

Schools fail on exam truths

not OK. I will never be OK." Kelly was sentenced to 16 years in jail.

That appearance in court, and her dogged pursuit of Keily, have made Mrs Ortolano a Joan of Arc figure. Kelly had been leading a sybaritic life on the ski slopes of Switzerland when private

stant fear since I was 16. I

Ortolano helped to trace him. This week, announcing publicly that she would now devote her free time to help women to cope with and fight against rape, she said: "I am not ashamed because I was raped, and I don't think other women should be. " She had recurring nightmares for years in which Kelly came back to kill her.

Mrs Ortolano will now undertake a speaking tour of local colleges, at which she will warn and educate young women about the dangers of failing to speak out against

She says: "I still get nervous and my voice quivers. But when I do speak out, I get such a wonderful response, it gives me the feeling that I'm doing the right thing."

Of the post I receive here from Britain, the item that I look forward to perhaps the most is the Oxford University Gazette, an endearingly pedantic weekly publication. This week's issue contained, in the section listing doctoral dissertations to be examined, a reference to a thesis submitted by a theology student called T. Mawson of The Queen's College: "How could I know I had been resurrected?" Mawson will be examined on December 2. Let us pray for success.



Adrienne Ortolano, who swore to get her rapist jailed

Cultural revolution installs new hero

THE Opium Wars, long consigned in Britain to the quiet of school textbooks, are alive and kicking in New York's

Chinatown. This week, to great fanfare. residents unveiled a statue of Lin Zexu, the official who wrote an angry letter to Queen Victoria in 1839, asking her to stop British traders
"who smuggle opium to seduce the Chinese people and
cause the spread of the poison
to all provinces". Lin then had
several warehouses of British opium torched, thus also ig-

But why should he surface, after all these years, in New York? The answer lies not just in some nostalgic remembrance of things past, but also in the politics of contemporary Chinatown, Owing to massive immigration from mainland China, Fujianese now outnumber Cantonese. Lin was from Fujian. Cheng Hoi, a local Fujianese, explained the attachment thus: "For me, the statue of Lin Tse-hu is my moonlight."

Author champions parents' right to bring up children

By Tunku Varadarajan

AMERICAN society is undergoing a process of forced parentectomy", in which schools, welfare officers, social workers and courts are treating parents like parlahs and usurping their traditional child-rearing functions", a new book contends.

According to Dana Mack, author of The Assault on Parenthood: How Our Culture Undermines the Family, an ideologically-driven cadre of "child-rearing profession-als" has taken control of America's children, promoting the "dangerously erroneous idea that parents are bad for children".

Focusing mainly on schoolteachers and "social work bureaucrais", Ms Mack, who might be described as a conservative feminist, argues that there is "a pronounced antifamily bent" in the institutions that are supposed to be helping parents to bring up their children.

She excoriates the country's educational system for turning its back on the traditional skills of reading, writing and arithmetic and crowding the syllabus with courses on sex education, drug education, "death education", sexual abuse prevention and "life skills". One mathematics programme co-ordinator in Mas-

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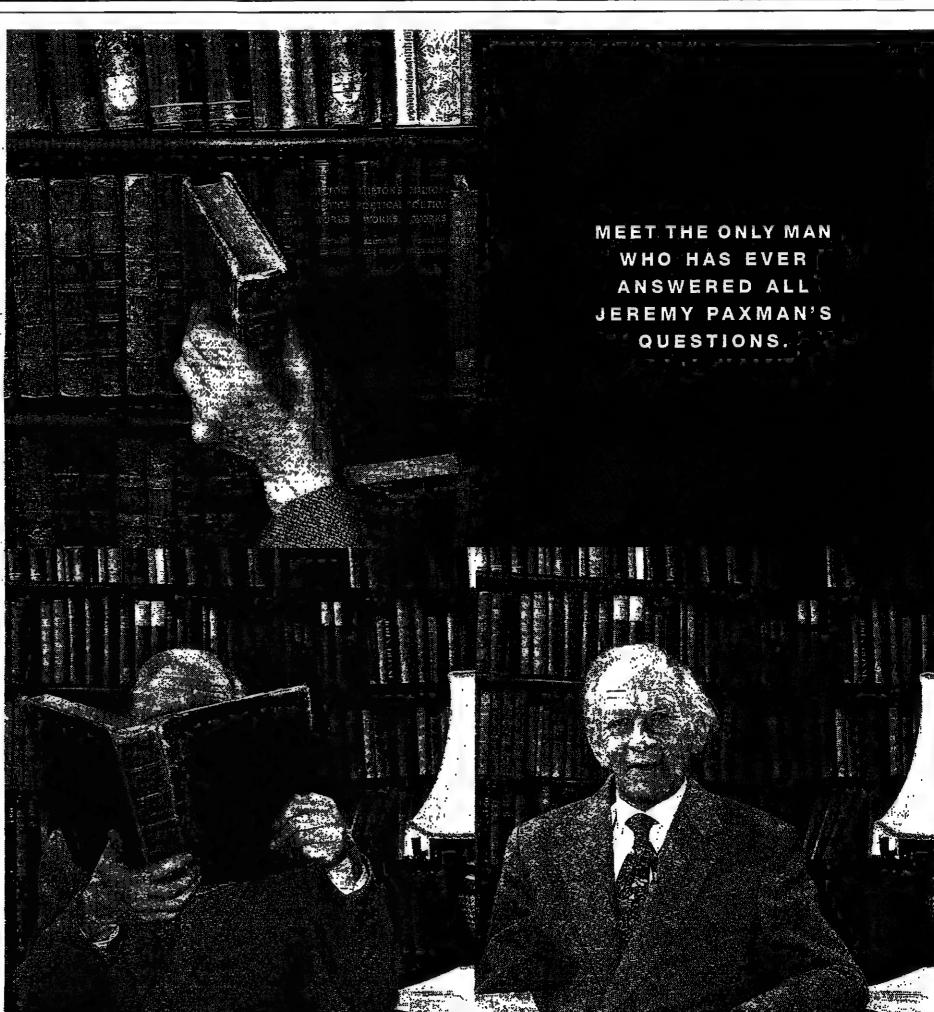
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sachusetts is quoted as saying that traditional arithmetic is "unfair because it imposes a 'right' and a 'wrong' answer, thus foisting a "White Western" ethos on children".

Ms Mack treats this as a metaphor for the way parental authority is being undermined in the classroom. Educators. she says, adhere dogmatically to their own ideology: this emphasises "choice" and "equality", and "excludes the moral dictates, rules and authority" that parents would prefer to inculcate. The classroom is the stage on which the following message is constantly displayed: "It is up to institutions, not parents, to rear children".

Aroung the stories she cites is a school neid mortuary in 1990 in which ten-year-olds were "enjoined to touch the corpses". Many were traumatised for weeks Some parents told Ms Mack such as: "My kid already knows about condoms -at six." Parents also doubted the appropriateness of teaching 12-year-old boys about homosexuality.

☐ The Assault on Parenthood: How Our Culture Undermines the Family, by Dana New York, \$25.



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Rich rush to Patagonia in property boom

THE barren, windswent lowlands and lush green Andean foothills which make up Patagonia have become soughtafter property for the rich and huge landholdings in what remains one of the world's most remote and unspoilt

The Patagonia property boom was sparked by the Italian brothers Luciano and Carlo Benenon, who became the biggest landowners in Argentina when, six years ago, they bought more than two million acres in a rugged flatland area of Patagonia that streches across three southern

Patagonia refers to a huge area of land occupying the southern cone of South America, south of the Rio Colorado and north of the Straits of Magelian. Most of it belongs to Argentina and encompasses the provinces of Neuquen. Rio Negro, Chubut and Santa Cruz. On the other side of the Andes is a thin slice that

belongs to Chile. The Benettons were the first to move in on a flatland area around the Rio Chubut, shunned by most Argentinians as too arid and remote. It is inhabited by small communities of sheep farmers whose forebears settled from Wales

along the rocky Atlantic coastline of Patagonia in the 1860s.

The Benetton brothers are said to have invested more than \$100 million (£62 million) in the ranch, where they breed the 270,000 sheep whose wool is exported to jumper factories in Treviso, northern Italy.

The Hungarian-born billionaire, George Soros, owns 964,000 acres just south of the province of Buenos Aires. where he breeds cattle. His estancia - ranch - run by Argentine gauchos, produces

Mr Soros is said to have invested \$160 million in Ar-



Soros: investments in hotels and cattle ranch

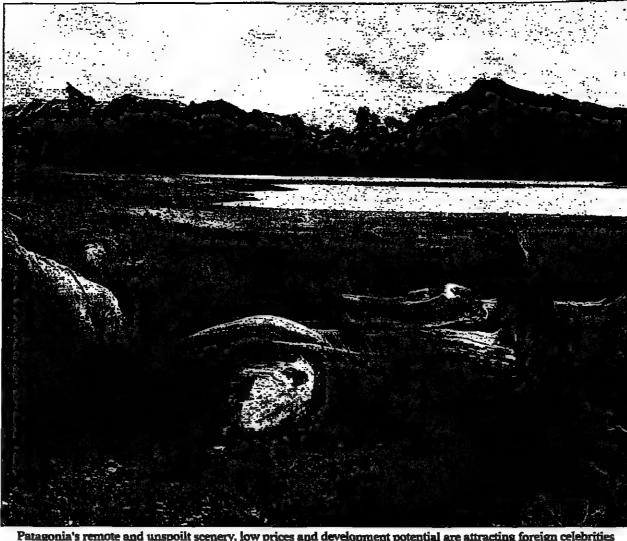
the lusher side of Patagonia, on the foothills of the Andes around the ski resort of Bariloche.

The region's untouched beauty appears to have been what lured the American CNN media baron, Ted Turner. He and his wife, Jane Fonda, have had a wood and stone mansion built in the Andean foothills, amid the idyllic setting of a nature reserve where deer roam and trout-filled rivers abound.

The 12,000 acres that make up the Traful estancia, in the province of Neuquén, are valued at \$6.5 million. President Clinton and his wife Hillary visited the Turner property, which is surrounded by evergreen trees and snowpeaked mountains, during their visit to Argentina last month. Sylvester Stallone's love of

hunting led him to buy 30,000 acres in San Martin de los Andes near the resort of Bariloche, a forested area dotted with glacial lakes.

Low prices and the huge expanses of uninhabited, unspoilt, countryside have been the major attraction. An acre costs between \$40 and \$100. The embracing of freemarket policies by Argentina and Chile have also made it easier for foreigners to buy



Patagonia's remote and unspoilt scenery, low prices and development potential are attracting foreign celebrities

land. Previous populist and military regimes had attempted to "modernise" and develop industry in the region, but failed because of its distance from major population cen-tres. The Government of President Menem in Argentina has promoted Patagonia as an environmental protection

in the past, Patagonia was also a stamping ground for

explorers, outlaws, missionaries and Welsh immigrants who sought isolation to preserve their language and culture. Its name derived from the word pata, Spanish slang for big foot, which was given by colonisers who on arrival saw large footprints left by a tall tribe of indigenous people in the region.

These nomads were animal skins on their feet, giving them

a larger appearance. Bruce Chatwin's In Patagonia also describes some of the eccentric and violent characters who roamed the barren land, such as Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

A Peronist party congress-man, Mario das Neves, who opposes Patagonia becoming park for celebrities", failed last year to prevent non-Argentine nationals from pur-

Fernandez, the director of the rural landowners' society, said: "Rich foreigners are cre ating employment in these remote rural areas and bringing money into the country. We welcome this."

Chile has been less welcoming. Attempts by foreigners to create a nature reserve and conservation zone have failed

Whites despair over Zimbabwe

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

farm seizures

LEADERS of Zimbabwe's commercial farmers completed a series of despairing meetings yesterday to tell whites, which farms are to be expropriated by President

Officials of the Commercial Farmers' Union officials have addressed anxious gatherings of farming families around the country this week, reading out from a list of nearly 1,800 farms drawn up by the Gov-ernment for forced purchase. There is heartbreak," said a senior official who asked not to be named. "People just sat there stunned. They don't know where tomorrow is any

more. In the most determined campaign against the country's small white community since independence in 1980. the ruling Zanu (PF) party is confiscating 12 million acres of white-owned land, 44 per cent of the total area under commercial cultivation.

Economists say the loss of the nation's most economically vital sector will create major disruption in a country already in political and eco-nomic crisis. They see Mr Mugabe as dominated by militant guerrilla veterans of the war against white minority rule in Rhodesia, who are demanding money and farms for helping to bring him to

The Government has no money with which to compensate farmers or for resettlement costs. Earlier this month Britain rejected a appeal by Zimbabwe for £150 million.

writes).

years, have lost heavily.

up of several small units.

and run away. We will take it

as it comes."

Peasant farmers in desperate need of land are no longer at the top of the list. Land will be distributed chiefly among forerrillas, Desti ises of "transparent" consultations in the selection of farms, there has been no contact with the union.

The expropriation has already begun, with government officials this week delivering the first letters notifying owners of their impending loss. The list is being kept a secret until the Government gazettes ali 1,772 farms. Farmers have been warned by Kumbiral Kangal the Lands and Agriculture Minister, that they will lose all chance of negotiation if they talk to the press.

Those who attended the meetings said that the list was riddled with mistakes. It made no attempt to adhere to undertakings by the Government to apply a policy of "one-man, one-farm" and to select underutilised properties or those owned by absentee

"When we heard the names being read out, it was just ridiculous," said one farmer who asked not to be named. *Some are listed under the wrong owners. Some are in the wrong provinces. Some of the owners have been dead

There are several black commercial farmers listed. "There is a complete lack of any professional assessment land," the farmer added. "It's clear there is vindictiveness against many of the people selected."

WORLD SUMMARY

2,000 held in foreign prisons

London: Almost 2,000 Britons are in prison abroad, with considerably more than half of them sentenced for drug offences, and last year British embassies were notified of the arrest of some 5,500 Britons (Michael Bityon writes).

Spain, with 341, holds the largest number of Britons in jail followed by France with 294, America (241) and Germany (101). The Foreign Office, issuing the figures in its annual report on the consular service, said that British officials made 8,157 visits last year to Britons in prison abroad.

Luxor arrests

Asynt, Egypt: Egyptian police said they had arrested 45 Muslim militants and identified the first of the attackers who killed 62 people in the Luxor tourist massacre this week. They said Abdel Rahman, who had returned to Egypt recently from Sudan and Pakistan, had met accomplices in caves near Badari in the southern province of Asyut before the attack, in which six Britons died. (AFP)

Village shooting

Vienna: A 36-year-old man ran amok with a pistol in the Austrian province of Salzburg. shooting dead six people, including a three-year-old girl. When police caught up with him, he turned the weapon on himself. The dead included the man's neighbours, and the deputy mayor of Maut-erndorf, a village south of Salzburg, who tried to mediate in the dispute. (Reuters)

Septuplets well

Des Moines: The largest of the McCaughey septuplets was breathing on his own and was removed from a ventilator yesterday. His six brothers and sisters were making "significant progress", a doctor said. The seven had been on ventilators since birth. The doctor said the others were following a more "typical time

Police cleared

Warşaw: A provincial court acquitted 22 former riot policemen of killing nine miners, the first fatalities of the 1981 communist martial law crackdown against Solidarity. About 100 people in the court in Katowice shouted of "Shamel Shamel" when Chief Justice Ewa Krukowska said the evidence was inadequate to prove guilt. (AP)

Hope for Abiola

Lagos: Moshood Abjols, the detained Nigerian presidential claimant, is on a list of 75 political prisoners who may be freed by military ruler General Sani Abacha, a local newspaper said. It quoted a member of a committee set up by the presidency to scrutinise detainees as saying the final decision would be taken by General Abacha. (Reuters)

No Year's Eve

Jakarta: There will be no public New Year's Eve parties in the holiday island of Bali to avoid clashing with the start of Ramadan. Islam's holy month of fasting. Nearly 90 per cent of Indonesia's more than 200 million people are Muslims, although Bali is predominantly Hindu. Private celebrations, including those in hotels, will be allowed. (AP)

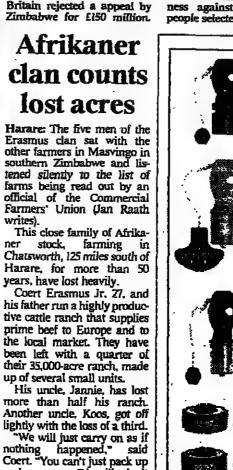
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Murder manual aided multiple killer, say judges

IT WAS murder by the book. James Perry meticulously followed the instructions in Hit Man, a how-to paperback for would-be contract killers, to carry out three cold-blooded

Perry was quickly caught and is on death row in Maryland. But in an unprecedented twist, the book's publishers, Paladin Press, are being sued for aiding and

It is a bitterly fought case that has put America's vaunted freedom of speech and the press on trial. An appeal court has just ruled, in a scathing opinion, that Hit. Man goes

Paladin's president, Peter Lund, vowed yesterday, dur-ing a visit from America to his cottage in the Cotswolds, that he will fight the case all the way to the US Supreme Court. At issue is the right of Paladin Press and its competitors to publish books that give detailed directions on how to commit crimes, not only murder, but building grenade launchers and other lethal weapons at home, robbing banks, cracking safes - even how to dispose of a body.

The spread of these manuals for mayhem is causing alarm. In the first Oklahoma City bombing trial prosecutors said Timothy McVeigh had three Paladin books. One explained how to make explosives with ammonium nitrate. the fertiliser in the bomb that demolished the federal build-

ing, killing 168.

After the World Trade
Centre bombing, the US Justice Department said the perpetrators had bomb-making information copied from books published by Paladin Press and others.

Lawrence Horn, an out-ofwork sound engineer, hired Perry to kill his ex-wife and quadriplegic son so he could inherit a \$2 million (£1.25



ance, we do not think these

restrictions should apply," a

decades ago say no aircraft or

tween from the Rock to Span-

ish territory. Aircraft taking

off are forced to perform

abrupt manouevres to avoid

Senor Matutes presented

the first formal Spanish pro-

posals on the dispute at a one-

hour breakfast meeting with

Mr Cook before the start of

yesterday's EU employment summit in Luxembourg.

claimed by Spain, and sharing

responsibility for air traffic

control in the area.

infringing Spanish airspace.

Rules imposed by Spain two

British official said.

million) trust fund intended for the boy. Perry shot the exwife and the son's nurse through the eyes, as instructed by Hit Man, and suffocated the son. The prosecution said Perry followed 22 of the book's recommendations in committing the murders.
Yet despite the book's em-

phasis on making a clean getaway, it was not the perfect crime. Police cracked the case by tracing phone calls from Perry to Horn, who has been sentenced to life without parole. The civil suit seeks damages from Paladin Press for the victims' families.

Some of America's most prestigious newspapers, pub-lishers, broadcasters and journalism organisations filed amicus briefs supporting Mr Lund, who contends that a verdict against him would have a far-reaching and chill-ing effect on press freedom. They included The New York Times, The Washington Post and the ABC network, owned by Disney. In their unanimous ruling,

the three appeal court judges said it was "breathtaking", to say the least, that national media would feel obliged to defend Paladin's assertion of a constitutional right intentioninformation it knew would be

UN team

back in

Horn in a Los Angeles court with his lawyer. He hired Perry to kill his ex-wife and son, and was jailed for life

used in the commission of

Reversing a lower court decision, the judges said mate-rial that directly aids and abets criminal activity cannot enjoy the protection of the Constitution's First Amendment, which says Congress shall pass no laws abridging freedom of speech and the

The ruling said the detailed instructions in Hit Man stand in sharp contrast to vague rhetorical threats of politically or socially motivated violence that have always been part of

indispensable to a free society and rightly protected.

Mr Lund and his lawyers admit the crime was egregious. They express sympathy for the bereaved families. But they ask why their books should be banned while there is no censorship for hundreds of novels, films and television dramas that describe how to commit crimes in detail.

A former Green Beret in Vietnam, Mr Lund stoutly defends his right to publish and be damned. He says the case has already cost him thousands of dollars.



Lund at Paladin's warehouse in Boulder, Colorado

Serb poll to test peace accord

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

DIPLOMATS and moderate Bosnian Serbs are hoping that parliamentary elections this weekend will finally end the political career of Radovan Karadzic, the wanted war crimes suspect.

The woman backed by the West in her attempt to get the Bosnian Serbs to comply with the Dayton peace accord. Biljana Playsic, faces the first test of her public standing.

If her political party fails to make substantial gains and a resurgent strain of Serb radicalism makes ground, the West may be faced with the unpalatable fact that the Dayton accord is unworkable and that Bosnia will fall apart.

More than I.I million have registered to vote in the Republika Srpska elections, including about a quarter of a million refugees living outside the entity, many of them Muslims.

None of the mainstream parties contesting the election advocates a unified Bosnia. but moderates who are rallying around Mrs Playsic's Serb People's Union mollify impatient diplomats with a onecountry, two-entities vision.

Vicuna: Former Yugoslav warring factions have completed arms reductions agreed last year by destroying nearly 6,600 weapons, said Vigleik Eide, a senior Western arms negotiator, (Reuters)

Spain says wider Nato role tied to deal on Rock

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN LUXEMBOURG

yesterday accused Britain of trying to use its integration into Nato as a means of forcing it to give ground in its claims to soverlignty over Gibraltar.

Abel Matutes, the Foreign Minister, said Britain was trying to take Nato as a hostage" after Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, gave a frosty reception to Madrid's latest proposals for settling a squabble over Gibraltar airport.

Britain has made clear that it will not back current moves to bring Spain fully into the integrated military structure of the Atlantic alliance unless Madrid eases longstanding restrictions on the movement



Iraq to search of aircraft and ships in and out for arms of the British territory. "If Spain is going to become a normal member of the alli-

HOW far President Saddam Hussein of Iraq may have exploited his confrontation with the United States to conceal documents and equipment related to his suspected weapons of mass destruction will become clearer when United Nations inspectors re-

sume work today.

Between 70 and 80 UN arms experts, including Americans, returned to an icy reception in Iraq yesterday. "Down with America," read banners along their route into He suggested stationing Spanish military personnel at the airport, which is on land Baghdad from an airfield where they arrived from Bahrain. Their first task will be to assess how far their mission may have been set back by the

three-week standoff. America's mistrust of Saddam's intentions was un-Britain and the Gibraltar authorities had already sig-nalled that these conditions derscored by its continuing military build-up in the Gulf. would be unacceptable. Britein was dismayed that Señor A second aircraft carrier, the USS George Washington, arrived before dawn while two of six F117 stealth fighters, Matutes had decided to present the proposals formal-Spanish officials were angry over what they called the ordered to the region before Russia provided the ladder for Saddam's climbdown. high-handed" tone taken by landed in Kuwait.

Iraqi rhetoric suggested there would be further attempts to test the UN's re-solve. "Our victory in this battle will lead to several successes whose solid results will appear day after day," said al-Thawra, the newspaper of the ruling Baath Party. "We have proved to everyone that we have a national iron will."

However Iranian officials said the Iraqi leader had played into American hands by providing the US with an excuse to boost its military might in the Gulf, which Tehran regards as its sphere of influence.

Vital weapons inspections had been suspended since October 29 when Iraq banned American monitors and other team members refused to work without them. The six Americans still in Iraq were expelled on November 13 and 68 non-American members were withdrawn the following day in protest. Richard Butler, the UN's chief weapons inspector, said only four Americans would return, explaining the decrease as part of a routine rotation.

During their absence. Iraq was accused of tampering with cameras on a remotecontrolled monitoring system at so-called dual use facilities where equipment for civilian purposes could potentially serve military programmes.

There is suspicion Saddam provoked the crisis because the inspectors were on the verge of an important discov-

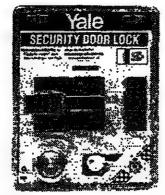
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ly, officials said. "English ... Spanish ... I couldn't give a monkey's" Mr Cook.

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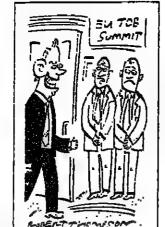
Jobs summit soured by Spanish opt-out

FROM CHARLES BREMINER AND ANDREW PICACE IN LUXEMBOURG

THE 15 states of the European Union last night embraced a modest package of measures for tackling unemployment after a lacklustre summit that both Tony Blair and French leaders hailed as a victory for their national ideas.

Objections from Spain. which has Europe's highest level unemployment level, soured the closing hours of the Luxembourg gathering and handed ammunition to critics across the Continent, who dismissed the special EU session as a talking shop. Under pressure from Jose Maria Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, the other 14 agreed to exempt Madrid from fulfilling deadlines for offering training to the jobless, the scheme's only concrete piedge.

The Luxenibourg package commits governments to a "new approach", creating more flexible labour markets. lightening the burden of taxation, promoting business and



offering training. The chief in-novation is an accord requiring all states to submit national action plans, to be reviewed by all members once a year, starting at June's summit in Edinburgh. The EU is banking on peer pressure, of the type applied to the

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delighted by Mr Blair's back-

ing for an important role for

the "social partners" - em-

ployers' organisations and

unions - in modernising

The French leaders offered

some diversion to their EU

colleagues when the Gaullist

President attacked the em-

ployment policy of his Social-

ist Prime Minister. M Chirac

lambasted the "mirage of dan-

gerous experiments that can

gravely affect the fight against

unemployment". The remark was instantly understood by

M Jospin's team to be a swipe

at his plan to enact a maxi-

The employment guidelines

call on states to offer work or

working week of 35

work patterns.

hours.

to spur states to comply.

The left-leaning British and French administrations proclaimed the summit a triumph for their contrasting approaches to absorbing unemployment, which has remained at more than 10 per cent of the EU workforce for the past five years. Mr Blair -Britain has half the French unemployment level - said the new measures "signalled fundamental change and a new direction for Europe".

They focused on skills and infrastructure rather than "the old ways of state intervention. corporatism and over-burdensome regulation for companies". The summit had "been a substantial success for Europe and the United Kingdom", Mr Blair declared.

training to the under-25 job-However, President Chirac less within six months of their and Lionel Jospin. his Prime being out of work. The older unemployed should be offered Minister, hailed the summit a "solution" within 12 months. as a triumph for France's drive to have the EU treat ent-, States, with the exception of ployment with the same rig-Spain, are also supposed to our as monetary union. "Step aim to offer training to 20 per by step, Europe is taking on a cent of all unemployed in five social dimension," said M

Germans hit back at 'Helmut Dole' jibe

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUIT

DISPLAYING an unfortunate lack of humour, the German Government has lambasted an article in The Sun that called the Chancellor "Helmut Dole".

A government spokesman expressed Bonn's disapproval in an official release, resulting in Thursday's story about unemployment receiving disproportionate media attention in Germany.

The equivalent of The Sun in Germany, Bild newspaper, adopted an unusually high moral tone and blasted the British tabloid for reporting that Herr Kohl's obsession with shaping up financially for economic and monetary union (EMU) had left its citizens jobless and too poor to afford a pint of beer.

Bild called the Sun article.

which dubbed Germany a "welfare wonderland" carrying out "state bribery" on a mass scale, as "a wild brew of half-truths". The government spokesman said it was "a concoction of deception".



James Nivette, above, with his son and girlfriend Gina Barnett, who was killed in California. Below, French police arrest Mr Nivette, now held in hospital

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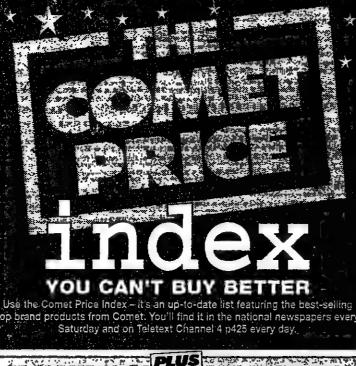
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A PSYCHOLOGIST suspected of murdering his girlfriend and abandoning their 18-month-old infant by a Califor-nian roadside has been arrested in eastern France in a joint operation by the FBI and French police. James Nivette, 55, twho suf-

fered a suspected heart attack after he was arrested, is expected to fight extradition on the ground that he could face the death penalty if convicted in California. American police launched

an international manhunt for the psychologist after his son Tyler, dressed in pyjamas, was found crying on a pavement near San Francisco airport before dawn on Monday. A television viewer identified the child and directed police to the couple's house in Sacramento, where they dis-

covered the mother, Gina Barnett, 25. She had been shot eight times with a semi-automatic pistol. An American CBS television crew was on hand when Mr Nivette was <u>arrested on Thursday at an</u> apartment in Munster, on the Franco-German border. Last night he was being held in a hospital in the city of Colmar.

The osychologist, whose licence was revoked four years ago for seducing three of his patients, has been charged with murder under an inter-

national arrest warrant. There is no death penalty in France, and French courts seldom agree to extradite suspects who might face execution if sent home for trial. Mr Nivette may be afforded additional protection since, although born in the US, he had a French father.



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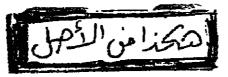
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Lib Dem win shows Tories' Hague's glimmer of unpopularity, says Ashdown

Conervatives say

Wiichester was

feak result as amble ends

inrout, writes

Janes Landale THE iberal Democrats yes terdascelebrated a stunning

victor in the rerun general

electic contest at Winchester

as the Tories dismissed their drubing as a freak result. Onthursday, Mark Oaten transomed a two-vote majority ou the former minister Gerr Malone to a 21,556 triumpl The High Court had orderd that the May I poll be repezd after a challenge from/ir Malone.

Pady Ashdown yesterday joine Mr Oaten for a victory walkbout in the Hampshire city nd hailed one of the party greatest successes. Blear-eyed after the declaration 23am yesterday, and the charagne party that fol-lower Liberal Democrat works turned out in force as passig drivers hooted their congitulations. Mr Ashdown said ae result showed the Toriewere still as unpopular as etr. while his party's

ernment and a lot of that stuck to me," he said. There were suggestions that Mr Malone.

who was maintaining a cheer-

ful face, might return to the newspaper industry, before

standing for the Scottish par-

liament. "I have no immediate

plans but I am still a political

In six months, the Liberal

Democrats transformed a minuscule margin into the largest majority held by any of their 46 MPs. The High Court

had declared Mr Oaten's two-

vote win in May void because of ballot-paper irregul-

The party secured an almost 20 per cent swing from the

Tories: about 8,000 people who had in May voted Tory backed the Liberal Democrats, who were also boosted by concerted tactical voting as some 4,000 Labour voters switched their support to Mr

saw this as a good omen for future tactical collaborations. Labour, which had not put much effort into the campaign, lost its deposit, picking

A Literal Democrat candidate who gained 640 votes in May won just 59 this time.

The scale of the Tory defeat,

which surprised even the

Liberal Democrats, can be attributed to Mr Malone's unpopularity; an absence of animosity towards Mr Oaten

among Tory voters; Labour voters' willingness to vote tactically; and the continuing unpopularity of the Tory party

Some voters felt that Mr Malone had been a bad loser for refusing to accept defeat in

May. That the courts ultimate-

ly judged that he had techni-

up just 944 votes.

on a national level.

suppo continued to grow. Lori Parkinson, the Tory chairmo, said the defeat was a "freakesuit" and that voters had blated the party for making ther go to the polls again.

Mr Mione, the former MP, said th defeat was "unfinished briness" after the general eleion rout. There was a lingeng memory of the unpopurity of the last Gov-

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Total vot54,384 Turnout 88.74% 1997: Oan (LD) 26,100 Malone (C) 26,098 Dries (Lab) 6,528) Strand (Ref Pair) 1,593 Huggett (Top Choice L 640 Rumsey (UK Indep) 476 Brone (Ind Anti Fed Euro) 307



Mark Oaten, the victorious Liberal Democrat MP for Winchester, was joined by Paddy Ashdown yesterday

hope fades to gloom

fortnight when the commis-

sion on electoral reform is

But Winchester is unlike-

ly to be the prelude to

further Lib Dem by-election

victories against the Tories.

The problems which Gerry

Malone faced on Thursday

will not apply in any other

Tory-held seat where a va-

Moreover, when, rather

than if, the Government

runs into mid-term unpopu-

larity, the beneficiary is like-

ly to be the Tories, not the

Lib Dems. The old Liberal

Party seldom achieved

gains when Labour was in

power, apart from taking the odd rundown inner-city

seat such as Birmingham

cancy occurs.

ever much special and un-Beckenham and Winchester are discounted, the two contests wipe out the midsummer glimmer of hope of the increased Tory majority at the Uxbridge by-election. The party has not yet drawn

a line under its defeat. After Tony Blair's rough last few weeks, he will be relieved that Labour improved its share of the vote at the Beckenham by-cleetion, from 33 to 37 per cent. The party's wipe-out in Winchester is largely irrelevant, set against the runaway success of Mark Oaten, the reelected Liberal Democrat. Of course, the near 20 per cent swing from the Tories to the Lib Dems is fantasy politics. But the result gives Paddy Ashdown a powerful answer against internal party critics of his closer co-operation with Mr Blair, Mr Ashdown's policy of has withstood its first key test. Lab-Libery will be taken

Liverpool Edge Hill in 1979. David Steel was the last Liberal, in March 1965, to capture a Tory-held seat when Labour was in office. This all depends on the Tories becoming credible. William Hague cannot be

unpopularity of Mr Malone. Nonetheless, 40 per cent of those who voted for Mr Malone on May I either stayed at home or backed Mr Oaten on Thursday. In Beckenham, where turnout fell sharply, an even higher proportion, 43 per cent, did not back Jacqui Lait, mostly in this case staying at home. Of course, voters do not like what they see as unnecessary

hv-elections. But the results show how much the Tories have to do to rebuild public confidence. In this respect, it was slightly bizarre to choose such a day to highlight Tory divisions over Europe. Peter Temple-Morris has been an increasingly semidetached member of the Tory party and did not complain about the axe descending. Nonetheless, this just shows that the Tories will endure more troubles

PETER RIDDELL

before recovery starts.



cally won then was ignored. Leading article and Letters, page 23 Muted cheers greet close call

AS victy parades go it was pretty the Jacqui Lait, who had scaped home for the Consentives in the once rock-soi Tory seat of Beckenham, ranaged only a brief appearace in her new constituency sterday. The irner Whip, who had

lost Haings and Rye at the generalelection, revived her parliamntary career on Thursdy night by a narrow margirwhen she held Beckenhampreviously represented by lers Merchant, with a majori of 1,227 over Labour. The resit was an embarrassment for the Tories who have held th seat at every election

since iwas created in 1948. Looling gloomy and exhauste. Mrs Lait greeted unenthusistic shoppers for little more ran ten minutes on Penge ligh Street yesterday. The nw MP was defensive and barred her narrow victory c the weather. It had been filihy November day. cold, et and dark , she said. "Peop thought they would

prefero stay at home." Tor campaign workers. who hd slogged round Beckenhanduring the three-week campign, were so downbeat yesteray that Mrs Lait did not acear until just before midde. "I thought it was better hat I got some sleep. Otherise I thought people may it appreciate the sight of me," se said, trying to enliven

Buthere was little to cheer the canpaign workers. One soon sid she would rather go



Jacqui Lait (Con) 1:
Bob Hughes (Lab) 1
Rosemary Vetterlein (L/D) 1
P Rimmer (Lib)
J McAuley (NF)
L Mead (New Brit Ref)
T Campion (Soc Found Party)
J Small Nat Law Party

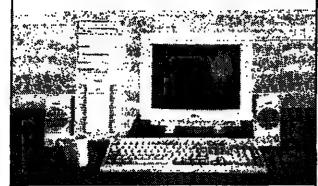
Total vote 31,908 Turnout 43.7%

1997: Přerz Merchant (C) 23,084 Bob Hughes (Lab) 18,131 Rosemary Vetterlein (L/D) 9,658 L Mead (Ref) 1,663 P Rimmer (LIb) 720 C Prati (UK Ind) 506 J McAuley (NF) 388

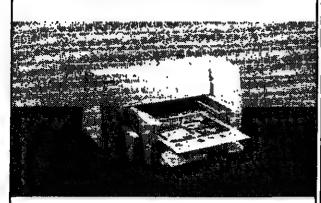
home. It is pointless, the atmosphere is so bad." Mrs Lait, a usually bubbly person, headed for a smarter area, Beckenham High Street, to see if things were better. A few pensioners out shopping greeted her. One said: "I voted for Jacqui and she seems very nice. I think a lot of the old ladies did not bother."

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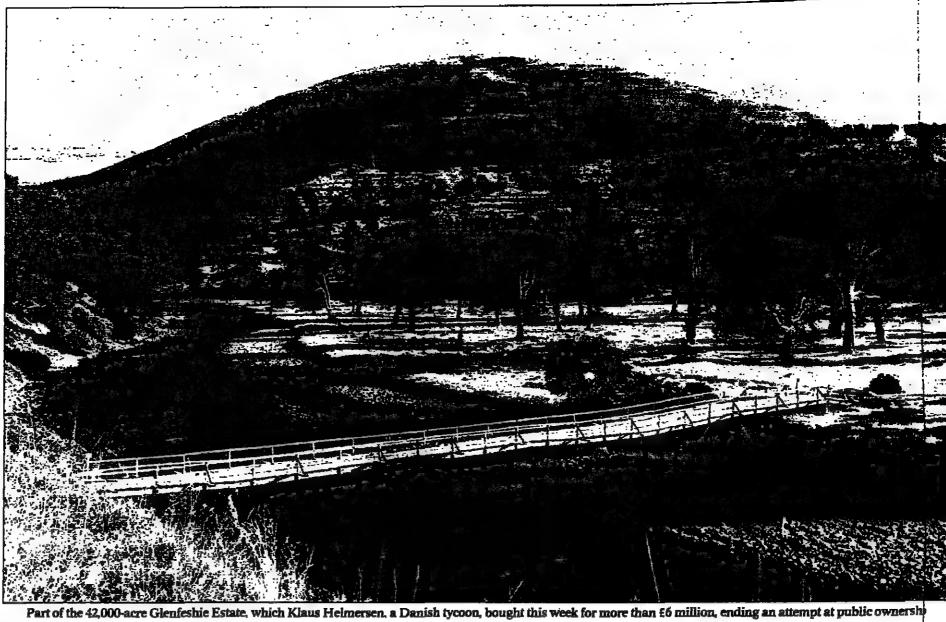
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المساوية فقينها فيزان الرواية والأستحار فللمستجارين



مكذا من رلامهل

Why Scots eyes are on a Dane

The new owner of the Glenfeshie estate will come under intense scrutiny next week when he begins talks with conservation bodies on the future of his private kingdom in the heart of the Cairngorms wilderness.

Representatives of Klaus Helmersen, the 52-year-old Danish multimillionaire who bought the 42,000-acre sporting estate this week for more than £6 million, have approached Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the Government's environmental agency, to arrange a meeting.

The approach was made as land reformers in Scotland were still taking in the news that an attempt to bring Glenfeshie into public ownership had failed. A consortium made up of SNH, the National Trust for Scotland, Forest Enterprise, the Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the John Muir Trust had hoped to end years of damage caused by overgrazing from the large number of deer kept on the estate for sport.

Yesterday, Roddy Fairley, of SNH, said he was pleased that the new laird had made contact so quickly. "Glenfeshie is a spectacularly beautiful place, but its woodland and other habitats are being grazed into oblivion," he said. "The critical thing is to get deer numbers down to allow the woodlands to regenerate."

Glenfeshie is widely regarded as the jewel in the crown of the Cairngorms. Sir Edwin Landseer painted Monarch of the Glen there in the 1830s and Queen Victoria was among its many admirers. The consortium had planned to cull the

The tycoon who has bought Glenfeshie finds himself in the midst of a passionate conservation debate,

sheep and 1,124 stags and 695 hinds to halt the destruction of native trees. There are now only 600 acres of Caledonian pine left at Glenfeshie, one of only eight remnants of the once-mighty Caledonian forest. Just over half of Glenfeshie is part

says Shirley English

of a National Nature Reserve, but most of the forest trees are now over 150 years old and all new saplings have been eaten. A recent report by the World Wide Fund for Nature said that Glenfeshie was "dying on its feet". The mountainsides have become scarred with tyre tracks, and deer fencing has killed off large numbers of grouse.

It is unclear whether Mr Helmersen was aware that he would become the most watched man in Scotland after his purchase of Glenfeshie. The six estate workers, who were assured that their jobs were safe, welcomed the new laird, as did the Scottish Landowners' Federation, while at the same time admitting that private ownership had failed in the past. But feelings were



running high in the village of Kincraig, population 300, on the edge of Glenfeshie, with people divided between traditionalists, mainly locals, and reformers, mainly middle-class newcomers.

This heightened mood, along with the reaction of the broader public and a thinly veiled warning by Lord Sewel, Scottish Environmental Minister, on the day of the sale, will have left Mr Heimersen in no doubt about public feeling. Lord Sewel urged Mr Helmersen's company, Danstrup-lund Holdings, to work closely with conservation groups or risk invoking a compulsory purchase order.

Yesterday, Jorgen Smidt, Mr Helmersen's representative, repeated assurances that the new owner was environmentally minded. He also indicated that the new laird had bought 800,000 saplings for replanting. But that admission was taken as naivety by environmentalists, who believe culling deer to allow natural forest regeneration is the best way to repair the damage at Glenfeshie.

WHO OWNS SCOTLAND

British owned

1 The Forestry Commission
1,600,000 acres
2 Duke of Buccleuch/Lord
Dalkeith: 4 estates in the Borders

3 Scottish Office Agriculture Dept: 90 per cent crofting land 4 National Trust for Scotland: includes 75,000-acre Mar Lodge 190,000

6 Duke of Atholl, Sarah Troughton: Estates around Dunkeld/Blair Atholi

7 Capt Alwyn Farquharson: invercauld on Desside/smaller Mary Grosvenor: Grosvenor Sporting Estutes, Sutherland

9 Earl of Seafield: Seafield estates, 105,000 Speyside 105,000 10 Crown Estates Commission: 3 main estates, including Glenlivert

Foreign owner

1 Andres Ltd. Maleysia: Gietvon Calmgorms/Brauen, Invernes

Mohammed bin Resold at Maktourn: Glomach, West Snula/ Inverinate, Wester Ross 3,000 rrverinate, Wester Ross3,000 3 Kjeld Kirk-Christlansen, hed

of Lego, Denmark: Strathconon, Mid Ross...... 0,000 4 Profe Joseph and Lisbet Kerner, Swedish Tetra Pak helress: Corrour, Calthness ... 5 Stanton Avery, USA: Dunie Caithness

6 Mohamed Al Fayed: Bainagowan, Ross and Cross 7 Urs Schwarzenberg, Switte

land: Ben Alder, Inverness-lin 8 Count Knuth, Denmark: 🖺 mad al-Tajir, UAE: Blackford Barra, USA: Barra and Islans

From Who Owns Scotland Now?, by Auslan Cramb (Mainstream, 15)

Klaus Helmersen's wealth stems from his family company. Danstruplund Holdings Carli Gry International, a producer oct-sure and sports wear (Christopher Follett writes). The Carli Gr chain has nine shops in Britain, the latest in Edinburgh. The copany was floated on the Copenhagen Stock Exchange 18 month ago, releasing a large sum from the sale of stock. Glenfeshie is ist one of many recent property acquisitions. Other Davish lairds clude the Kirk-Christiansen family, who own the Lego toy grou They bought the Strathconon sporting estate, near Inverness, is 1995 from the MacDonald-Buchanan whisky distillers.

Bulgaria in Crisis LEFT TO FEEEZE Yordan, 1%, already from cold and hunger this winter unless aid temparatures seting to -15°C Yordan's scant clothing and no shoes offer him tle protection from the bitter cold and there is no money to heat his orphanage. There are 37,000 places in Bulgaria's orphanages. No Money To Feed The Children No Money To Heat The Orphanages

Bulgaria is a country in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Unless urgent help is sent, thousands of children will suffer terribly this winter.

There is little money to heat the orphanages.

Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rurely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's

The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanian Orphanage Trust, is ready to distribute emergency food packs, clothes and fuel to the orphanages in most need. Your gift today will save lives and bring hope.

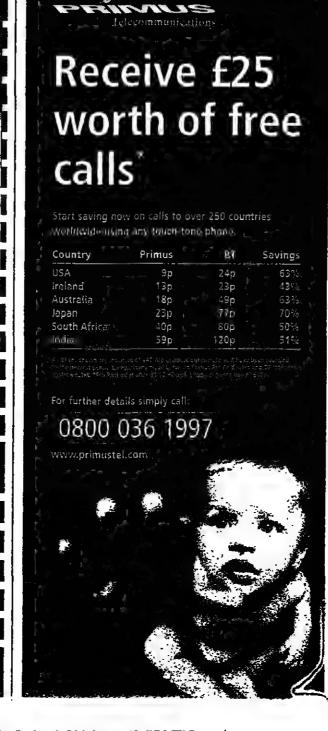
• £28 could buy enough emergency food packs to feed 20 orphanage children for a week or heat an orphanage for 3 days.

Please send whatever you can to help children survive the winter or call 01273 299399 NOW

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Hampstead stuck in legal gridlock prisons A plan to cut congestion has been delayed by a handful of the delayed b

delayed by a handful of objectors.

Reports by Dominic Kennedy

wai on commuter traffic, a battle is taking place on her own doorstep between champions of the car and campaigners for the environment.

The wide avenues of her constituency, built to accommodate horse-drawn carriages, have become the scenes of such daily chaos that Ben Elton chose Hampstead in North London for the climax of his anti-car novel Gridlock, about a giant traffic jam.

One of Elton's characters says: "It is mayhem out there! The minute word goes around that anything above fifteen inches of London kerbstone has become vacant, it is a battle zone, guy! They're all screaming 'Mine, mine' and spitting and snarling and throwing boiled sweets and road atlases at each other. People will kill to park! They will kill themselves to park."

Ms Jackson, the London Transport Minister, has issued a Green

6 It is

They will

to park 🤊

Paper that anticipates the end of free on-street parking, to stop commuters driving to work and dumping their vehicles all day. But two barristers in her constituency have shown how easy it is to sabotage the kind of residents-only zones which the Government now advocates. Using legal arguments

and court action, they have outwitted the Labour council in court to delay the introduction of parking restrictions by seven years, at a cost to local taxpayers of thousands of pounds.

The result is that commuters still flock to the area every day, fighting for space in what locals describe as the capital's biggest free car park. Reelings are running so high that Jonathan Turner, one of the lawyers, has been threatened;

when Camden council turned the town centre of Hampstead into a controlled parking zone where residents had to buy annual permits to leave their cars in special bays. Commuters responded by leaving their vehicles in the neighbouring areas of Belsize Park and Primrose Hill.

Carnden council intended to extend the residents-only parking zones to these areas ioo. Not only did this anticommuter policy fit with the borough's image as the most environmentally conscious in

's Glenda Jackson London, it is also a way of prepares to declare making large amounts of money without putting up taxes. Residents' parking zones create a profit of £6 milhon a year for Camden, which the council uses to subsidise public transport for the elderly

But some car owners resent ed having to pay to park outside their homes. They argued that residents-only zones would deter friends and relatives from visiting. The housebound would be lonelier than ever. Led by Mark Cran, QC, a barrister who has fought for the singers George Michael and Holly Johnson ten Primrose Hill residents took Camden to court, Among the objectors was the former Downing Street caterer, Clare

Latimer. They persuaded Mr Justice McCullough in 1995 that, when Camden consulted local people, it had already made up its mind to introduce a zone. Camden had to begin consulting all over again. In summer

1996, the council said it was ready to restrict parking in Belsize Park January mayhem! However, Mr Turner, a bar-People will rister from Gospel Oak, argued that kill to park! the permit charges of £82 a year were excessive. Camden capitulated and paid MORI £20,000 to poil resthemselves idents across the borough about what would be a fair price. The

> supported the current charge. In September this year, counsel warned Carnden that this was not enough: it would have to consult the people of Beisize Park alone on the cost of permits. May 1998 is now the latest target date for zones to

> Ms Jackson is facing the frustration of old friends such as the playwright Peter Nichols, one of her election canvessers, who has long campaigned against the cult of the motor car. His 1974 play, The Freeway, was about a giant traffic jam.

Instead of completing his umpteenth questionnaire, Mr Nichols told the council: "Don't expect us to waste more time filling your office with waste paper." He says: "Camden has buckled under the personal reaction of one individual in Gospel Oak with crackpot objections."

He has nicknamed the area "Belsize Car Park", but when he wrote to Ms Jackson about this, he says, she just thanked him for his letter and enclosed

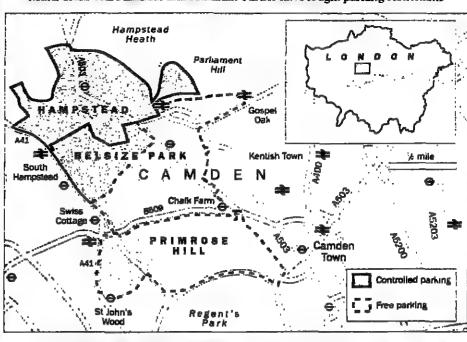








Mark Cran. Clare Latimer and Jonathan Turner have fought parking restrictions





The playwright Peter Nichols, who has long campaigned against the car; right, parents dropping off children at school are blamed for adding to traffic congestion

some Labour Party literature. Two residents have been awarded £250 compensation each by Camden after complaining about the delay. One of them, Angela Warden, said the area was a low priority to the council. "Some of it is old Labour and dinosaur views. They sneer at people living in Hampstead sending their children to private schools,"

So far, Ms Jackson has avoided taking sides in public. But she will be urged to get off the fence when consultation on her Green Paper ends next

Friday. Deborah Sacks, who ing the legislation."

School Telebra

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chaired Camden's environment committee through most of the saga, said: "All the rules in the book have been used to try to delay the process. It is something that needs to be looked at in terms of simplify-

Peter Nichols, page 22

Christmas on the street — or safe at St Mungo's?



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TACKLING THE SCHOOL RUN A GIRLS' independent school cut traffic by a quarter share car journeys. Private minibuses were ar-

by encouraging pupils to walk, get the bus, or travel by car in groups. The Royal School in Hampstead has won praise from the Government's pollution advisers and is about to become a model for schools, colleges. offices and hospitals.

When governors wanted to increase the roll of day girls, Camden council said they could have plan-ning permission for an extra 50 pupils only if the "school run" was cut by 30 per cent in three years.

The bursar, Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Rixon, who had dealt with logistics at the Ministry of Defence. compared the postcodes of all 108 day pupils. He sug-gested to neighbouring parents that they should

ranged. The bursar also wrote to parents suggesting they used smaller cars. Within a year, traffic had declined from 148 cars during the peak hour on Friday afternoon to 114, a fall of 23 per cent.

The school is praised in the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's latest report. Its chairman, Sir John Houghton. said yesterday: "It is an excellent idea. A great deal more could be done by sharing trips to businesses, shops and schools."

Camden has decided to

use the same methods at a state school. Businesses in the borough are working on similar plans.

Leading article, page 23

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RAF officer's mistress 'would go with anyone'

Murder trial told of 'promiscuous' interpreter, writes Michael Horsnell

THE attractive Serb interpreter for whom an RAF officer allegedly murdered his wife was a "tricky and promiscuous" young woman prepared to prostitute herself with anybody for her advancement, a court was told yesterday.

Within days of being told by Squadron Leader Nicholas Tucker of the death of his wife. in a faked car crash. 2i-yearold Dijana Dudokovic decided against joining him in England and began an affair with a Swiss restaurateur in the ski resort of Verbier, Norwich Crown Court heard.

The officer, who had had a five-month affair with her in Bosnia, where he served as a military observer, made daily telephone calls to her before and after the alleged murder. upon his return to Britain in July 1995. And he sent her a five-page letter in which he repeated the words "I love you" - like a "schoolboy's punishment".

But she tore it up without replying and burnt it, the court was told. The end of her affair with the 46-year-old officer was described to the jury by Bertrand du Pasquier, a former Swiss civil servant who served in Bosnia with the UN High Commission, on the fifth day of Mr Tucker's murder trial.

Mr du Pasquier told the court that after Miss Dudokovic received a call from Squadron Leader Tuck-



even to go with an old man in

He added: "She was tricky."

She had a lot of friends in the

United Nations Protection

Force. "I know that she was a

denies murdering his wife

Carol, 52, on the night of July

21, 1995 by staging a car accident in which his Ford

Fiesta plunged into the River Lark in Suffolk. Mrs Tucker

Squadron Leader Tucker

promiscuous woman."

Squadron Leader Tucker: he had five-month affair Bertrand du Pasquier, lest he denied relationship

er, she realised it was not bridge, but only after her possible for her to go in England to join him. "She husband had asphyxiated her. it is alleged. The prosecution realised her future would claims that it was all for the break down and she said, love of Miss Dudokovic, who 'Now I am ready to do never saw him again and has anything. I am even ready to subsequently married. prostitute myself. I am ready

Mr de Pasquier, who later supervised elections in the former Yugoslavia, told the court that, at the request of Miss Dudokovic's father, who worked in his office in the UN's Northern Sector headquarters at Topuska, he obtained a visa for her and paid her air fare to Switzerland. Mr du Pasquier said he returned to Geneva in June 1995 and the following month Miss Dudokovic arrived to stay with him and his children at their home. later spending several days

with them at his chalet in

It was at the Swiss resort that she began an affair with Heinz Walder after meeting him at his restaurant, the Al Capone Pizzeria, and moved into his chalet.

Mr du Pasquier, now a consultant with the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, denies that he ever had an affair with Miss Dudokovic. He said that it was for compassionate reasons that he agreed to get her out of Bosnia. Asked why she had moved on from his home, he said: "She was ready to follow anybody.

He said he got "fed up" with the way the "manipulative" young woman used his home as a "sort of Post Office". "As soon as she arrived in Geneva at my home I had arguments with her about her behaviour. I tried to say to her to leave my home. When she finally met Mr Walder and decided to go with him, it was a very good solution for myself."

Miss Dudokovic left after allegedly taking a gold brace-let worth Sfr3.000 from Mr du Pasquier when he refused to give her money. He said Miss Dudokovic received calls every day from Squadron Leader Tucker during her two weeks in Geneva. These included one on the morning of Mrs Tucker's murder and one two days afterwards, on July 23.



هِ كذا من رالاميل

Dijana Dudokovic was described in court as "tricky and promiscuous"

Death of winchman blamed on ship's **SOS** delay

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE son of the helicopter winchman who was swept into the sea to his death while rescuing the crew of a cargo vessel forced onto rocks in Shetland said yesterday that they had been "incompetent and unthoughtful".

Alan Deacon, 24, blamed the loss of his father, Bill Deacon, on poor management and incompetence by the captain and crew of the Bahamas-based Green Lily. Mr Deacon, a Royal Navy petty officer, alleged that the handling of the emergency was motivated by money.

His accusations were backed by coastguard sources, who said that both the crew of the Bristow helicopter, on contract to Shetland coastguard, and the lifeboatmen were furious over the apparent delay in the skipper's decision to radio a distress call in such terrible conditions.

The dead man's son told a news conference in Aberdeen: "It never matters how stupid or ignorant the people who get themselves into these situations might be - as with the crew of the Green Lily, who proved themselves to be com-pletely unthoughtful and incompetent.

"Whatever way you look at it, the lack of leadership skills and good decision-making on behalf of the ship's skipper have led to the death of my dad. What that has been driven by is money. Strangely enough, money is something my dad always said is not important and that was never 🗣

ever his main concern.
"I always replied: It's just as well, Dad, because you could never get paid enough for what you do.' "

Ezio Abram, the captain of the wrecked freighter, wept yesterday during a press conerence at Lerwick as he said he was "very sorry" that Bill Deacon had lost his life. Mr Abram then denied that

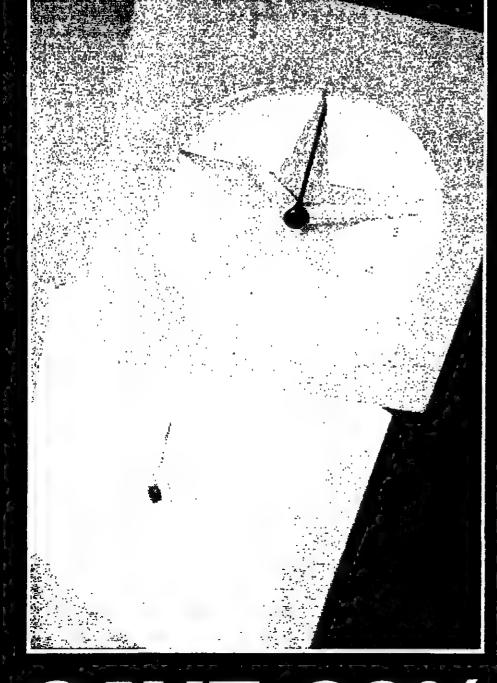
he and his crew had shown poor seamanship during the rescue on Wednesday afternoon. He had held a master's been with this company for a year. He said he had crossed the Atlantic 66 times and was used to sailing in bad weathe: The ship's owners, the No

tering, also supported his decision not to abandon the Green Lily earlier.

Mr Deacon's body was discovered on Thursday close to the island of Bressay.



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MAGAZINE

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Raging thirst 'wakes little hibernators'

BY NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

nating animals such as dormice, bats and hedgehogs wake up briefly during the deep slumber for a drink.

Paul Bright, a zoologist at Royal Holloway and Bed-ford College in Eggham, Surrey, said yesterday: "With the dormouse, 70 per cent to 90 per cent of the energy expended during hiberna-tion is expended during these

One theory is that waste products build up and need to be finshed out. Other theories vary from circadian rhythms — natural cycles of sleeping and waking — to the loss of certain sleep patterns. But a team at the Univer-

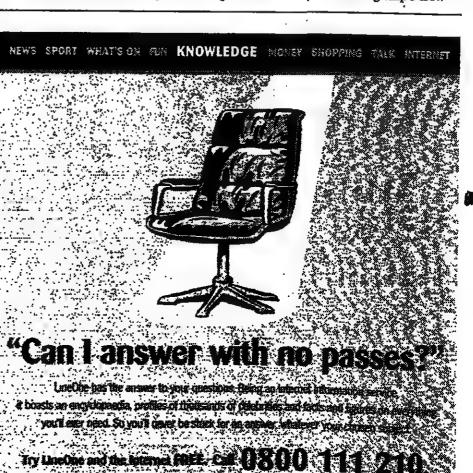
sity of Sherbrooke in Quebec, Canada, and the University of New England in Armi-dale, New South Wales, believe dehydration is the key. Their findings are pub-lished in Functional Ecology, a journal of the British Ecological Society.
The researchers have calcu-

lated evaporation rates from

THE mystery of why hiber- little brown bats and goldenmantled ground squirrels over a range of hibernating temperatures. "Our analysis non may be influenced by evaporative water loss, indicating that the animals may

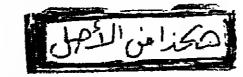
> the ground squirrels indicates they are designed to produce water droplets for drinking. Dr Bright said the findings were backed up by research in Britain, where studies of pipistrelle bats indicate a main cause of death during hibernation is moisture off a cave wall. "Dormice here almost certainly do the same thing," he said, adding that the nests of hedgehogs may also serve as

rouse themselves about every eight days and warm them-selves up to "full operating temperature". Dr Bright thinks it may be to keep all the organs in good shape. "It the car in winter to get the parts working," he said.



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My obsession with the tango

Director Sally Potter became so passionate about the Argentine dance that she had to make a film about it - starring herself

There is no dance quite as seductive as the tango. It developed in the bars and brothels of Buenos Aires to the wistful, melancholy moans of the accordion and the violin: intimate, full of wordless passion, sexually suggestive, absorbing to watch, addictive to perform.

Sally Potter's new film The Tango Lesson, filmed in glorious black and white, passed the supreme test this week: it opened in Buenos Aires ("I was terrified, as you can imagine") and the Argen-tine critics waxed ecstatic. At last, they said, someone from outside Argentina had made a film about their culture without clichés. And it is all her own work: she wrote it, directed it, stars in it, in three languages; she dances, sings, and wrote the original music for it. (Beat that, Woody Allen.) Potter is a remarkable person:

small, calm, with fine eyes and cheekbones and an aura of stillness and intensity. She left Camden School for Girls at 16 with a burning desire to be a film director. Bohemian, she says, is a good old-fashioned way of describing her family. "Very left-wing values, no money, but always music in the house, and enormous independence for the children." In the 1960s. she lived in squats, making short no-budget films, studying choreography and dance, washing vegetables in restaurants, learning how to live on nothing a year. In 1992 her fourth film, of Virginia Woold's Orlando, appeared and was gar-landed with awards, after years of persistence: "I have letters from producers saying Orlando was rechnically, ideologically, aesthetically and financially a total impossibility"." How she now comes to make her screen acting debut at 47 is a story which forms the scenario of The Tango Lesson.

In 1993 she was working at home, at a round white table in an old warehouse in Shoreditch, writing a filmscript with the excellent title of Rage, a thriller set in Paris in the world of haute couture. Then. she happened to go to an Astor Piazolla concert, and to the hit show Tango Argentino, and was taken over — consumed — by a longing to learn the tango.

"I'd been a choreographer. I' could recognise a seriously different vocabulary of movement. I was teenagers danced alongside people dance had nothing to do with being young and thin and wearing Lycra

Seized by the desire, and blessed with a natural grace, she found an Argentine tango teacher in London, Carlos Gavito, at The Place off Euston Road - where she had once studied modern ballet. Tango invaded my consciousness. I was literally dreaming every night that I could dance much better than I could; like a flying dream."

THE THOUGHT

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Anyone who has taken up the tango in the Latin fever of recent years will understand this. I. too. have been dragged by my tangodancing, Argentina-raised hus-



band to the Friday night sessions at the London Weish Centre — where Clive James is often seen, hooked on tango ever since he did his Postcard from Buenos Aires. Clive fits in perfectly: tango classes are full of stocky fellows in gangster suits who crush their partners to their manly chesis and "dance like angels", as Potter says.

When she went to Paris to do research for Rage, she was told she must seek out Pablo Veron, one of the world's greatest tango dancers. She watched him dance at the Folies Bergère, and started taking lessons with him every day — using French as their common language; hers is now excellent and her Spanish isn't bad either. She then went off alone to Buenos

Aires and returned five times in the same year. Yes, she sat in cafés all by herself, just as in the film. She took tango lessons every day, and was in the clubs every night till dawn without fail. (Buenos Aires is a city where a lone woman can feel safe, even at four in the morning.) "And I came back to Pablo a year later, having learnt quite a lot." Enough to perform in public as Pablo's partner in Amsterdam and Marseilles. How could she afford all those flights to Buenos Aires? "Debt." she replies. "I have long since learnt that the kind of tightrope I walk relies on keeping your nerve financially and creative ly. You navigate the water and don't let money make any differ-

age was about to go into was there but subwith her own idea. She could no longer stomach the idea of making a thriller. "I wanted to do some thing that came out of there" (patting her breast) "rather than something intellectually driven, trivialising death, holding the world at arm's length. I wanted to make something raw and immediate and different in scale from Orlando, which is epic." So why not make a film about the tango

"Filming dancing is fiendishly difficult and takes enormous ingenuity. And how the hell do you integrate dance with a storyline



The tango invaded Sally Potter's consciousness. "I was dreaming every night that I could dance much better than I could"

that's anything other than a clothesline of pegs to hang dances on? It was only then that I realised I had to venture into territory that was extremely close to the bone: I was living a version of it." She would film her own story. Her producer, Christopher Sheppard, organised the money (from all over the world) and it became a "let's do the show right here", about a film director (played by herself) and her tango teacher, Pablo, played by himself.

But would it seem selfindulgent to star in her own bility," she says. We see her tentative attempts at tango steps, her awkwardness in having to be led, her jealousy when Pablo dances with his partner, it is all the more touching that she is a woman of 47 with a lived-in face, and none of the attributes of flashing-eyed senorita; and all the

more touching for being true. Is she in love with Pablo in fact? She ponders. "I would say totally in love with him, in many and strange ways. It is a relationship driven by the love of work. We've talked about this a lot: the thing we recognise in each other is the

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A scene from The Tango Lesson

complete primacy of work. We don't have a romantic relationship in the accepted sense. We made a decision not to spell out the letter of what our personal relationship is, because it would rob from the story in the film, which is about different kinds of love interweaving in a peculiar way.

"I always fall in love with people

I'm working with anyway. It's always two years of complete passion, and it's impossible in my view to be a director without profoundly loving the actors: you have to, to put them on the

She has never married, although she remains "in-volved". "But it's not a rie. I've always been completely free to follow my Muse. Pablo was also in that situation, but he, too, is so driven that both of us would drop everything for this." They have just been travelling launching their film. Where did she

immaculate director's eye? Where did she learn to frame each shot? She is guided, she once wrote, by "visceral principles of proportion and composition". Michael Powell was her hero and mentor. The film is dedicated to

"my beloved father Norman Potter" who died just as filming began. "The loss of him pervaded the whole experience, but not in a negative way. I was grieving, but I could see his death in terms of what he'd taught me in life, and a love of men. Which is so much what tango is about anyway: love and loss and

Her father called himself a poet, she says, but he was really a carpenter, and a teacher of design. "He was dedicated to work. He said work is the clue to identity. "He was an autodidact who left

school at 14 and was full of curiosity and hunger for learning until the moment he died. I was brought up to know that the only things that you learn that really endure are the things you learn from experience rather than education. Both my grandmothers were actresses; so, to a degree, that is in my blood. All the reading I've done is from my curiosity. Formal education never attracted me. "Everyone is born with curiosity,

every child finds learning pleasurable. But most education seems to knock that out of people and substitute habit, which is not the same thing at all. So people become afraid of learning, and they don't pursue their dreams."

Sally Potter has pursued her dream. A brava!

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THREE Elizabethans are attacked in an Irish forest, and in the confusion the one called William is left half-drowned in a big puddle. Rescued and taken to a castle belonging to a compatriot called Edmund, he ends up feting a finelooking girl with a sudden "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate". Yes, it's Will Shakespeare, on some misguided tour of duty in the Emerald Isle and revealing his identity to her, to us, and to his host, who is none other than Edmund Spenser.

For a moment it seems as preposterous as a top-hatted stranger in downtown Haworth introducing himself to Emily Bronte with a cry of "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times". Yet Frank McGuinness is too interesting, bold and important a playwright to be shrugged off.

THEATRE

Mutabilitie Cottesioe

Mutabilitie is a clotted, wordy

piece which even Trevor Nunn's lucid direction cannot render accessible or enjoyable. But the sometimes stilted dialogue cannot camouflage the quality of mind and imagination.

The action occurs after the

Munster atrocities of the 1580s, events that, in McGuinness's view, crystallise the sometimes hot, often cold, war between the English and the Irish. Dispossessed rebels, led by a senile chieftain and his bloodthirsty queen, lurk in the woods, preparing for revenge on Spenser, who hopes to rid the Roman Catholic heathen of their 'errors of law, custom, religion". Everywhere there are contradic-

tions. Spenser's wife (Diana Hardcastle) one moment mocks the Irish as "vermin", the next succumbs embarrassingly to their charms. Spenser himself (Patrick Malahide) runs mad as he tries to reconcile his horror at peasant sufferings with his devotion to Gloriana, alias the Faerie Queen.

As for the Irish, they are variously proud, sly, murderous, selfdestructive and fatalistic. Their final renunciation of their warrior past in favour of sackcloth, ashes and the power of prayer is, I suppose, meant to echo down the aeons. But so is a healing and maybe rather sentimental ending in which childhood innocence thaws hard hearts.

A fierce Aisling O'Sullivan, a majestic Frances Tomelty and the rest of Nunn's strong cast leave you with great, gristly mouthfuls to chew on, not least the question of the function of the writer in troubled times. Should Shakespeare - in Anton Lesser's performance, a felsty Prospero — join the political fray or rely on his art to spread a more general humanity? The answer is a long time coming. but I was glad I stayed to hear it.

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He just had NATTUIRIEN to get away from it all

Flight is right — but don't bank

on paradise, says Simon Barnes

the hero of the week: Fenn Chapman, the Rugby schoolboy who ran away to Barbados instead of working for his GCSEs. He swapped exams and the English November for a dream of paradise: never mind gerunds and voltmeters, bring a large rum punch straight to my personal palm tree.

Running away is the most glorious of solutions to every problem in life. Running away from something bad; running towards something good - it is hard to separate these primary urges. Both stem from the conviction that a better life not only exists, but has a physical location. Call it the Gauguin syndrome.

Gauguin fled towards Tahiti in search of paradise. He found an island riddled with syphilis and French bureaucracy, but it took more than reality to worry him. Never mind what Gauguin found:

what he painted was paradise. James Joyce ran away, not towards. Anywhere that was not Ireland was paradise enow. His aim was to fly by the nets of religion and nation. It was a wild and reckless move and he could not do it on his own. He flew with Nora Barnacle. Joyce's

father summed up, accurately, as it turned out: "She'll away is stick to anyway." an act of Running away, supreme

courage'

ment. Running away can be regarded as an act of supreme courage. It is, after all, through flight rather than

fight that you take wing. I ran away myself, once. did not, alas, find myself in a land of brown-skinned ladies wearing nothing but the occasional flower; nor did I write Ulysses. I ran away (rather than towards) because being a provincial journalist was so frightfully boring, and I was so frightfully bad at it. But

ing for the East. It was an aspect of the time. Going to India was, in the 1960s, considered the solution well, just about everything. Western civilisation was over, man. Seek the truth in India, in Nepal. The truth meant sitting in cases getting stoned and hepatitis and sometimes religion.

also. I had a romantic yearn-

For many that went (and survived), running away may have been a disappointment. But at least it was flight. Chapman knows that better than most. "He needed to get away to find his inner self." a

friend told a reporter. l did not run towards India. I ran away to Hong Kong and a job on the South China Morning Post, from which I was promptly fired. I did not expect paradise, or even naked women. But not expecting, I found nothing disappointing. Four years and a thousand adventures around Asia was,

indeed, paradise enow. Flight is always good. So

There is no doubt about long as you are running hard, you are ahead of the game. Running towards is danger-ous. Seeking paradise is dangerous enough; expecting paradise is almost invariably

> I read this week of a British couple who went to live in a paradise called Australia.
>
> John and Jackie Boyd are to star in a television documentary about the experience. It was astly. It seems they found the beer rather cold and the

sun rather warm. There is, of course, no pleasing some people. There are those who, lying on the Caribbean beach like James Bond in Dr No and seeing Ursula Andress emerge from the sea clad in white bikini, white belt and knife, would have sent her back on the ground that her belt needing

Such people believe that if it is happening where I am, then to belong to any club that will accept me as a member. Which is one way of dealing with life. A miseryguts is

seldom disappointed. But there is a worse way of attacking life. That is to live in one place, utterly convinced location - and never going there. Mos-'Running Moscow!

Moscowl That is the great cry of The Three Sisters: Sisters: "People don't notice they're happy. If I lived in Moscow, I don't think I'd care what the weather was like.*

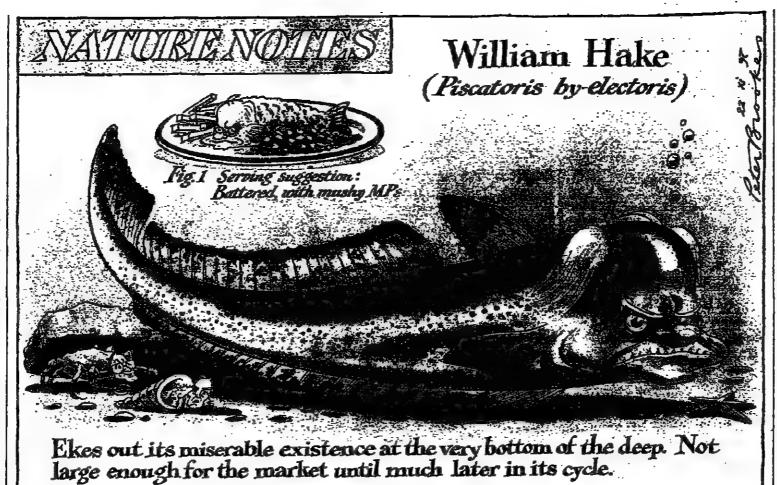
This other-country business can become just a stick with which to wallop your home, your family, your life. Francophilia is a traditional manifestation of this, and is still prevalent. When I find e served before the pudding, I reach for my revolver. So right-minded, Descartes, you know, and what's the English for cafetière?

owadays, America is more often encountered as a receptacle for dreams, for yearnings of paradise. It is also a mighty cudgel with which to belabour England. The glorious classlessness of America is a heady freedom for its occasional English visitors. New York,

Actually, New Yorkers don't rave about the wonderful energy of their home town, still less its heady freedoms. They complain about crime and filth and the prices, and look forward to a visit to a gorgeous, trouble-free paradise such as

New York!

little old England. Still, I will give the last word to an American, one Bob Dylan: "The moral of this story! The moral of this song! Is simply that a man should never be/ Where a man does not belong./ And if you see a neighbour carrying/ Help him with his load,/ And don't go mistaking paradise/ For that home across the road."



Monarch of hearts

ony Blair is already compar-ing himself to Disraeli in his dealings with the Queen. In preparing for this week's golden wedding celebrations, she told him: "Don't be too effusive." He said he could not obey this command. He said to her face at Thursday's banquet: "Sorry Ma'am, but I am from the Disraeli school of Prime Ministers." He enthused: "You are so dignified yet down to earth ... so unstuffy, unfussy, unfazed by any-thing, with a keen sense of humour and a mean ability for mimicry ... You are the Best of British." The Queen replied in kind. "I believe that there is an air of confidence in this

country of ours just now," she said.
Britain was a glad, confident land.
This is a high-octane affair. New
Labour, New Empress of India. My
own contact with the monarch this week was more prosaic. She stopped me crossing Storey's Gate by "going walkabout" on her way from the Abbey. She looked fresh and relaxed. and smiled quizzically at a small crowd of tourists. She was on her way to what the spin-doctors dubbed "the people's banquet", at which she skilfully yielded to her critics without seeming to do so. Thus does a wise Sovereign nudge another sandbag on to the anti-republican dyke.

How different it all seems from just three months ago. Of all the drivel regularly written about the British monarchy, none is as drivelling as greets a royal crisis. "The monarchy cannot survive this shock," the media screams at each divorce. This is the end of the monarchy," proclaims each revelation of adultery. "Another nail in the coffin of the monarchy." was trumpeted at the death of Diana. On each occasion, "the monarchy is in crisis ... under threat ... can

never be the same again". This week was the antidote. As Diana's funeral was a well-crafted mix of collective and personal grief, so the golden wedding was a mix of marital celebration and constitutional renewal. The inclusion of "ordinary" people at the banquet contrived to be more than a gimmick. The Queen's speech, though drenched in spin, was a masterpiece. It identified monarchy with democracy, both

requiring "the support and consent of the people", albeit in different guises. The monarch duly promised to hear the people's message, to pene-trate the obscuring veil of "deference and rhetoric" that she is (intriguingly) aware surrounds her office. The As the head of a troubled family, the Queen has won herself new affection

head that wears the crown lies always uneasy, but it lies secure. Thus is the business of Diana, the field of flowers, the scars and bruises, deftly tucked into the box of history. How well the British constitution recovers its equilibrium. The centre always holds. Mere anarchy is loosed upon other worlds, but not on

Yet this week did more than shake "new Labour" glitter on the British monarchy — and vice versa. It acknowledged a change in the concept of family royalty which, for 30 years, has hesitantly underpinned the British Crown. In the mid-1960s the Queen decided, on the advice of

her then secretary to make the Royal Family a public adjunct to her reign. Previous Royal Families had been little seen and rarely heard. This one should appear on television and share

in public duties. The royal children would harness family values to the cause of heredity. The public might find it hard to identify with a Queen, but it could surely see in her family a mirror of its

This strategy has been tested to destruction. The collective monarchy, "the firm", has been sullied by one catastrophe after another. Of the Queen's four children, three em-barked on marriages that failed. The fourth remains determinedly unwed. The self-proclaimed first family has been no advertisement for the sanctity of wedding vows, nor for the stability of family values. To be fair, it

no longer pretends to be. The marriage of the Queen and her husband has survived for 50 years and has been strong. Yet the most effusive lesson that Prince Philip could offer in commenting on it was that "tolerance is the one essential ingredient to any happy marriage". The Queen replied in kind. She referred to her husband's "forthright manner" and complimented him as her "strength and stay". This was meagre fare for a nation freely and publicly invited to the golden wedding feast. Might not a certain fourletter word have sneaked past the

scriptwriter's pen? Yet all public talk about families tends to be either trite or tripe. The poor Archbishop of Canterbury, in his Abbey address, had to steer a perilous course. Choosing his plati-tudes with care, he intoned that marriage was "a basic building-block of any society and the surest founda-tion of family life". Given the track record of his regal audience, he wisely added that he meant no rebuke to "those for whom [marriage] has never been a way of life, or those whose experience of marriage has been neither as long-lasting nor as

the royal couple. The occasion was strangely underrhelming as an affirmation

familial joy.
I found it the more real for that. has been a long-

term shift in the status of the Royal Family as national exemplar. For explanation we must recall the reaction to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The scale of that mourning was not, in my view, due to her beauty or status or charity work. It was due to her fall from grace.

Diana at her wedding was admired as a synthetic Princess, a creature of Barbara Cartland out of Hello! magazine. But happiness in public figures is dull. Only in their unhappiness do we feel close to them. By the time of her death, Diana was patron saint of the emotionally dispossessed. She was evidence that all the world's material blessings do not bring joy. They can rather bring illness, pain, loneliness, loss of love, a touch of malice, a reckless lust, a final tragedy. We are mean of spirit who cannot at least empathise with that. in her misery the new Diana became

soulmate to a generation.

The old Royal Family was as artificial a construct as the old Diana. That family was the creation of Crown and Church of England, of courtly counsel and BBC documenta-ry. Nobody could identify with such a family, rich, aloof and portrayed as incomparably happy. It was a card-board cutout, resembling all happy families - at best tedious, at worst

When the Royal Family hit trouble it became, after Tolstoy, unhappy in its own way". It became a matter of inevitable and prurient public laterest, but it also became real. It duly incurred not the distancing emotion of envy but the bonding emotion of sympathy. The wave of support that engulied the Queen in her annus horribilis of 1992 returned when her vulnerability was on show after Diana's funeral this summer. Here was a family with problems, making mistakes and sometimes making amends. Thanks to the media, its heart was perpetually worn on its

Ido not understand the mystique of hereditary monarchy. Such intangible concepts are vulnerable to any puff of political ill-wind. What matters to a nation is a chosen head of state who can enjoy the lasting respect of the public. The Queen enjoys that respect. She might have enjoyed it had the Royal Family displayed three decades of unalloyed happiness. She might have enjoyed it had any troubles been concessed behind a veil of pretence. Westin palaces and ceremony can hold a monarch aloof from public gaze for a time. These conditions have not

nstead the Queen has come to appeal for a different respect, a more valid one. It is the respect that comes from acknowledging that affairs of the heart rarely go according to the book, in marriages or in families. Even the best-regulated families come unstuck and there seem no rules to guide them through the trouble. The Queen's experience of family life has made her seem more human, and more worthy of respect, than anything in her reign so

The Duke of Edinburgh may have sounded defensive when he declared his pride in his children, when he said that they "had done rather well under very demanding circumstances. Millions of bruised parents knew what he meant. His family has been unhappy in its own peculiar way. Yet there it is, warts and all. I believe this experience has brought the House of Windsor closer to the heart of the nation than any golden wedding homily.

Jammed in a gridlock

Why must my park

be a car park? asks Peter Nichols

hen I was young, ours was the only car in our avenue. Not for long, though. My father thought this looked like showing off and put his Morris Cowley in the garage before too many neigh-bours spotted it.

This was still the case until the 1950s. And even then no one sensed the danger ahead. There seemed no reason to remind drivers that streets weren't garages but thoroughfares. Every city in the advanced world has made the same mistake. China is avid to graduate from the bicycle and share our problem of finding room for several hundred million cars.

The broad avenues of London's Belsize Park, where I live, must have been in their day an efficient, elegant means of serving the large villas. Now every street is a day-and-night double row of vehicles and the gaps between them narrow with every advance in power steering. It is already no easy task for a pedestrian to leave the pavement. When lateral-steering becomes standard, any small openingthat remains will be finally closed. Even bus stops become parking places and buses have to bar the road while their passengers squeeze on and off.

But where to put all the cars? This question has defeated the Western world. A different view must be heard and heeded before our cities are stifled by steel, glass and rubber, by the noise of radios and horns; the wailing and whooping of alarms; the squelch and moan of cars and abuse from driven drivers who, like Gadarene swine, rush into and out of city centres that are no larger than

The car itself is not the culprit, any more than is the gun which goes off unaided. But both devices bring out the worst in people. We and our metropolis cannot cope. No city built for the carriage can give the car free rein. To earn the privilege of living in the city centres, sacrifices must be made. One can get about without private wheels. Of course, all bus, irain and Tobe services should be far better - and free. If it can be done for the old and very young, why not for everyone? Taxis are also part of the public system. They are cars which are not garaged on the streets for most of the time. Their hire should be cheap who available, not run for high profit by warring cartels.

Party conferences scarcely mentioned traffic, nor ever will, as a proper solution would take longer than any government expects to last. And while MPs have special parking facilities, no change would ever be on the agenda. The quickest way to get proper public transport is to take away parliamentary parking. But who would have to vote for that? MPs are not noted for altruism.

Yet in better moments their forerunners outlawed slavery and abolished hanging. The smokeless zone is a fact. Fish are returning to the Thames. I don't despair. Limited parking will come — indeed has come north and south of Belsize Car Park. The streets will be reclaimed and cleaned for the first time in decades. The flat-earthers may postpone it, so as to avoid paying for the privilege of throttling the public streets with their private hobbies, but just as traders are converted to pedestrian streets when they count their takings, so the majority will one day become car-free. Only then will they finally realise that what they had before was an auto da fé.

The author is a playwright who lives in Belsize Park.

Salsa sauce

DO not be alarmed if you catch a former Tory MP swaying rhythmically to a seductive Latin beat in the capital shortly: Phillip Oppenheim, the former Treasury Minister, rich kid and heart-throb, is to set up a Cuban restaurant and cocktail bar. The truncation of his political career in May has allowed him to realise his long-cherished dream of becoming a

restaurateur. His inspiration? A fascination with Fidel Castro, Cuba's communist dictator. Waterloo has been deemed the hippest locale for Cubana, which should pour its first daiquiri early next year.

"I've spent a long time in communist countries and have a keen interest," he said before jetting off to Cuba on a "fact-finding" mission. The man once ripped for the Tory leadership promises that Cubana's decor will boast a "strong communist influence". So will the walls be draped with images of Castro? "That would be too tacky even for a former Tory minister. Nor do I want to become a launchpad for a new Bay of Pigs." A reds-in-the-bed scandal.



Oppenheim and Castro

former Mosimann's manageress will yet the food. And as Phillip was the most eligible bachelor on the Tory benches, it should attract Latino lovelies. So stand by for a



"Simply magnificent proportions!"

● THE MONARCHY retains little mystique for Frames Rickards. suppliers of the six coaches used to bus royals around: "We put them in our standard buses. We didn't think they'd need loos or on-board service."The royal households were colour-coded. "We put the British in a purple bus and gave them Trevor Hopkins as a driver. Now Trevor has taken tour groups to Edinburgh, so he didn't need training. We gave him a map and told him to get on with it."

Fizz on hold

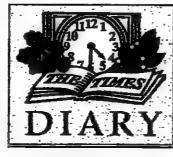
AFTER a gloomy sojourn in a Lancashire jail, the tycoon Owen Oyston could soon be dancing on the tables at Stringfellow's.

He has served 18 months of a sixyear sentence for rape and indecent assault, and his case comes to the Court of Appeal on Monday. Oyston's supporters are confident that fresh evidence will lead to their man's release. "There could be quite a celebration," says one rather mischievous friend. The champagne and dancing girls are on their way." Oyston has more mate-

OLD TIMES "My purpose is to ensure that the result properly reflects the intentions of voters." Gerry Malone (May 17) explaining why he was mounting a High Court challenge to force a new runded the Liberal Democrats

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JASPER GERARD

rial concerns. "He can't wait to see what the people running his affairs have been doing in his absence."

 NEVER has an umlaut caused such offence. Lembit Öpik, the Estonian Liberal MP, is cross because Hansard fails to use two



dots to decorate his surname. "I showed them how to do it." says Opik, believed to be the first umlauted MP. "I had to point out the key on their typewriters." Han-sard has now conceded. "We don't usually do things like this," says a keyboard operative there, "but he kept banging on about it."

Fear factor

TEARS for Gerry Malone fell from normally dry eyes - belonging to hacks on The Scotsman. They fear that the failed, but tough, Tory will be offered the newspaper's editor-ship by his former flatmate and fellow Scot Andrew Neil, top dog there. Malone worked for Neil during his reign at The Sunday Times. Says one: "If he comes up here, I'm moving to Winchester."

• WE were too strict in Diary Towers when we ticked off Lord Scarman for slipping away early from a debate. Lady Scarman was ill and Lord S wanted to be by her side, naturally. If I had known, I would have directed my fire at less dedicated statesmen. Sorry.

HEW TIMES The City has talken to new Labour. Former -advisers to-Labour ministers, now making money there, have set up a dining club to delebrate their success. Peleen members will dine at Lexingtons, where the guest of honour will be a senior figure from No 10."



Keeping Cherie company: Peter O Toole

PARTY TIME THE affections of Cherie Blair have been won by that celebrated old liverspot, Peter O'Toole. Tuesday night found them both in Leicester Square at the premiere of Fairytale — the True Story, a gushing flick in which the ailing O'Toole took a sup-

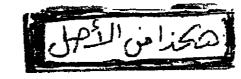
porting role. They got on so well at the drinks party before the screening," purrs a fellow seat-filler. "Cherie seemed rather impressed." So impressed, according to one suggestion, that she later accompanied the actor to the fashionable watering-hole

Soho House Curiously, the stuffed shirts in the film's production office seemed keen to dispel the rumours. "She had her children with her and took them off after the show." Meanwhile the Arts Minister,

Mark Fisher, has been making himself rather unpopular at the theatre. Last week found him reclining in smart seats, appraising Shared Experience. There was a small hitch. He had not booked them. Enter Simon Gammell, a reliable cog in the British Council, who promptly told him to take his ministerial frame elsewhere.

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THE SCHOOL BY



RDAY NOVEMBER 22 19 Jammed Why must my part he a car park asks Peter Nich

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THEITIMES

NEW MONARCHY

A good week for the Queen, her Prime Minister and the Crown

Rarely in recent years has the Queen looked as relaxed, as happy or as friendly as during this past week. Her mood cannot be put down simply to anniversary delight or the pleasure of seeing Windsor Castle restored. Having downgraded her golden wedding celebrations for fear of public disapproval, she instead found a warmth of feeling which stretched from the wellwishers lining Whitehall to the hardened and sceptical press.

Why has the mood changed so dramatically in just 12 weeks since Princess Diana's death? The answer is that a vicious circle has turned virtuous. Before, the Queen's remoteness and formality aroused public hostility. which in turn must have reinforced her grim demeanour. But since her live broadcast to the nation the day before Diana's funeral, when she let the mask slip a little and acknowledged the need for the monarchy to learn lessons, the Queen has found that a little humanity reaps rich rewards.

Watching her in Whitehall with a helium balloon emblazoned "Happy Anniversary", only the coldest-hearted could have failed to smile. The new informality has not dented her dignity, as her advisers might have feared. Rather it has set in motion what a psychologist would call positive reinforcement: the more relaxed and friendly she appears, the more warmly the public responds, and that can only have the effect of making her happier still.

One of the architects of this new style is Tony Blair. A man who in younger days might have been indifferent to the monarchy has come to appreciate its merits. His speech at Thursday's "people's banquet" was sincere in its praise. The language of his body as well as his words themselves spoke of a relationship that is warm on both sides.

No Prime Minister would want to see the

monarchy collapse on his watch. Nor would most Prime Ministers be happy with the alternative, an elected President who might be tempted to meddle in politics. But we trust that Mr Blair is acting not out of expediency alone. Through his weekly audiences, his dealings with the Queen after Diana died, and the deepening of his appreciation at the Commonwealth Heads of Government summit, he seems genuinely to hold the Queen in high regard.

The man with a well-developed sense of the need for popular support has much to offer a monarch who is insulated from democracy by virtue of her position. She needs his advice. For, as the Queen acknowledged on Thursday, while the monarchy may not be tested regularly at the ballot box, it will cease to exist if the people decide that it has outlived its usefulness. No less than Mr Blair must she be responsive to public opinion, albeit in a measured way.

The hand of Labour could clearly be discerned in the seating plan of the banquet. The Queen shared her top table not with aristocrats and ambassadors, but with a community policewoman, a 25-year-old Guide leader and an assembly line worker at Nissan. Such placement serves two purposes: it looks good and it helps to keep the monarch close to popular concerns.

The reason that the monarchy has survived is that it has learnt to adapt with the times. Today's monarch, who had seemed to be stuck in the rigid 1950s, is only continuing the modernising tradition. She is also following her forebears in acting on the advice of her Prime Minister. At this rate, Mr Blair might do for Elizabeth what Disraeli did for Victoria: to coax the monarch back to public affection and entrench this great institution for another reign.

OLD FACES

By-elections show the Tories must break from their past

it, "a truly terrible night for the Conservatives". Mr.Portillo's words, uttered on the evening of May 1, remain apposite despite the peculiar circumstances of the Winchester and Beckenham results. Both were, in their different ways, postscripts to the general election rather than new chapters in British The circumstances of Piers Merchant's

resignation in Beckenham were a coda to the comic opera of sleaze which ran throughous the Tories' election campaign. Gerry Mane's forlorn attempt to win back Winchester was seen as sour grapes by his former constituents whose muted May warewell was transformed into a fortissimo 'good riddance". Taken together they underline the disdain which the Conservatives earned during their final years in office and emphasise painfully the formidable task William Hague faces in overcoming his party's past record.

Coming after the Government's most uncomfortable fortnight in office, when the Prime Minister's laurels began for the first time to look bedraggled, the scale of the Tory reverse was all the more striking. In Beckenham the Tories had, in Jacqui Lait, a personable and talented candidate whose presence will bolster the tiny contingent of able women on their benches. But she still saw her majority whittled almost to nothing. Her Labour opponent joins an elite band of government candidates in by-elections who saw their vote rise. Ms Lait undoubtedly suffered at the hands of voters irritated by the deceptions of her predecessor and further irked by having to turn out again so soon after the general election as a

consequence of his folly. The annoyance of the Beckenham elec-

Thursday was, as Michael Portillo once put torate was, however, dwarfed by the anger of Winchester voters who were clearly piqued at having to remind Mr Malone that a majority of them had sent his Government packing in May. Both Mr Malone and Ms Lait may have suffered particularly as members of the Major Government that was so decisively rejected in the spring. The contrast with the earlier Uxbridge byelection, where a new, local candidate, unsullied by office, succeeded in increasing the Tory majority, will not be lost on the Conservative leadership. If Mr Hague is forced to field the same old faces, he may expect from the electorate the same old cry.

The Tory leadership should take Thursday's results not as a rejection of their programme of reform but rather as an encouragement to be more radical. The memories of an unhappy period in office can be effaced only by a comprehensive renewal of policy and personalities. For that reason, the withdrawal of the whip from Peter Temple-Morris is not only understandable but welcome. After the pointless equivocation of the Major years, Mr Hague should take the shortest way with dissenters. Mr Temple-Morris has been hawking what passes for his conscience around the television studios for too long. His flirtation with Labour was ended only because he believed he could better sabotage Mr Hague by staying inside the tent. Mr Hague paid that judgment the only possible compliment by kicking him out.

There is much more for the Tory leader to do: in democratising his party, being more open about funding, more modern in his presentation and closer to public sentiment in his policy. Winchester and Beckenham are melancholy warnings of the dangers of sticking to the past.

THE SCHOOL RUN

Glimmers of hope for mornings without pollution and stress

One of the surprises of old newsreel films is the sight of thousands of schoolchildren walking to school each morning. The camera rarely lingers on them: there was nothing unusual in youngsters, not yet in their teens, whistling down urban streets largely free of traffic. How different would be such a film today. There would be few children on the streets, and fewer still walking unaccompanied below the age of 11. Virtually no pupils would be found on bicycles. And around the gates of each school there would be a vast traffic jam of crawling, honking cars, pushing aggressively into the brief space by the kerb to let out one, or at most two, children. The road behind them would be blocked. As every commuter knows, daily life in the suburbs begins with road rage and delay.

For some schools, the morning jams have become a factor so limiting that they cannot increase their intake. Two things in particular have exacerbated the problem. The first is the expansion, under Conservative Governments and now also under Labour, of parental choice. The second is the perception that walking to school is no longer safe.

With schools competing for the best pupils, parents are encouraged to select those that offer the best above those that are nearest - even if this means a daily trek across town. There may, or may not, be a bus route; increasingly, pupils are expected to make their own way to school, relying on private transport. Schools appear indifferent to the problems of parking, traffic control and pollution. But what they, and parents,

now believe is that walking to school, even if possible, is unwise. Intense focus on the rare instances of children molested or abducted suggests that predators await on every corner - though Home Office statistics show such crimes are no more common now than they were a generation ago. Undeniably, however, traffic is now so heavy, polluting and fast that the risk of accidents is greater than ever before.

Some years ago the Government inaugurated a Safe Routes to School campaign, encouraging local councils to police and clear the paths, pavements and crossings used by children. This has had a limited success; but it applies only at limited hours. Those remaining at school for hobbies or sports must still rely on parental transport. And increasingly, individual freedom is limited by lack of mobility. Young people are isolated at home, safe but lonely.

Both the Policy Studies Institute and the Audit Commission have highlighted the problem. Encouragingly, parents and some schools are now volunteering time and money to cut the morning crush. Chartering minibuses, policing footpaths, creating temporary one-way systems and abandoning four-wheel-drive vehicles for smaller cars, they are cutting pollution, congestion and in-

Private schools are the pioneers - not always with the help of councils that look on richer pupils with a jaundiced eye. But state schools too must tackle the traffic. Safety at school is paramount. But so is getting there safely, healthily and on time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Britain's 'onerous' **EMU** obligations

From Mr Rodney E. B. Atkinson

Sir. In your issue of November 17 Charles Bremner reported from Brussels that German and French politicians are resisting British member-ship of the inner "Euro council" on the grounds that, as a Dutch official said, If you want to be at the table, join the

This might be a fair proposition if those countries which do not adopt the euro were released from all its concomitant obligations.

However those who do not join (called "pre-ins"!) are obliged to sub-mit to the rule of the Council of Ministers, while the European central bank is able to issue regulations "binding in their entirety and directly applicable to all member states".

Under the Maastricht treaty those countries which do not join must "transfer foreign reserve assets and contribute to reserves on the same basis as the national bank of a member state" which has adopted the euro. Furthermore, non-joining countries must co-ordinate economic policy with the Council of Ministers and "further the objectives of the Community". With such detailed and onerous obligations on those EU members outside the euro club it is extraordinary that anyone could suggest that they had not justified their place "at the table" of the euro governing council.

RODNEY E. B. ATKINSON. Alderley, Meadowfield Road, Stocksfield, Northumberland. November 18.

From Mrs Gillian Bardinet

Sir, There really are "none so blind as those who won't see". On November 19, as the EU 15 gathered for their jobs summit in Luxembourg (reports, November 20 and 21), figures were re-leased on French TV which show that not only unemployment but also pov-erty has increased in Europe since

To rigid and archaic social and fiscal structures have been added dangerous deflationary tendencies caused by straining after the convergence

There is no attempt to hide the damning figures. But so great is the belief that EMU is the cure rather than the cause that few seem to question these ominous facts, to which must be added the rider that EMU needs not only to be attained but sus-

Yours sincerely GILLIAN BARDINET President, British Conservative Association in France), 21 Rue Saint-Honoré. 78000 Versailles.

From Mr Richard Heiler

Sir, The Prime Minister offered a vision in your columns today (article, "My plans to clean up party politics") of "a completely new world of electoral finance". However, he was silent about the funding of the coming referendum on European economic and monetary union and the extinction of the pound. In the 1975 referendum on EEC

membership the Yes campaign outspent the No campaign by a factor of Il to I, without counting the official government propaganda in support of a Yes vote.

Sir Patrick Neill's committee should consider whether it would be right to allow this imbalance to be repeated in the EMU referendum. Like its predecessor, its result will be more important than that of any general election - and a Yes vote would be irreversible. The Prime Minister, and Sir Patrick, should recognise that there is an even greater need for fairness and openness in referendum campaign spending than in election finance.

Yours sincerely. RICHARD HELLER, Oval Publishing, 30 Crewdson Road, SW9. November 17.

Reluctant peer

From Mr Denis Watkins

Sir. Roy Hattersley (report, November 18), who wants the House of Lords abolished, said that it would take him a "great effort of will to discuss style and titles with somebody called Garter King of Arms" and that "I just cannot imagine myself dressed in ermine robes . . .". Despite this he has participated in arrangements to be gazetted as Lord Hattersley of Sparkbrook. This kind of behaviour is usually described as having your cake and eating it, although many may see it as good, old-fashioned humbug.

Yours faithfully. DENIS WATKINS, Ty Newydd, Velindre Crymych, Pembrokeshire.

Blood on the Nile

From Mr N. G. Gunton

Sir, I disagree strongly with your leading article today on the massacre at Luxor. Terrorism does not "feed on frustration and repression": it feeds on apology and weakness of response.

Yours faithfully, N. G. GUNTON. 65 Bolton Avenue. Richmond, North Yorkshire. November 18.

League tables of the best and the rest Essential mystery

From the Headmaster of Stowe School

Sir, Our school is at the "wrong end" of the exam result league tables (supplement and leading article. November 18) precisely because it aims to provide the best education for bright children. In a modern democratic society the only schools that can claim to be serving our children properly are those that can show, by example, the best of them how to value the rest of them; but for a school to include "the rest" is a recipe for its exclusion from the top division.

Streaming within a school can work well: two boys in different maths sets can stay in the same house, the same rugby team, the same debating society. But streaming between schools divorces them completely and forever. They will grow up in ignorance of each other: neither is well served by

Here at Stowe, Tom and Ed were a good partnership. Tom was headed for four good A-level grades in things mathematical; he was efficient and intelligent and invented administrative systems that worked. Ed inspired warmth, was good at rugby, knew the first name of everyone in the school, could persuade people to give Tom's systems a try, and was hoping by some miracle, and very hard work, to be able to pull off a couple of A-level pass grades.

They recognised each other's strengths, and learned to complement each other to get things done. They learned important lessons by being and working together, if not in the same sets or subjects.

Will the Toms keep coming to a school whose exam rankings have been so badly damaged by the Eds? Where else except at school will they learn each other's worth?

Believing passionately that the best and the rest should be educated together, we can live with a poor placing in the league tables: it hurts, but it is the price we must pay to do what we believe. However, unless it is properly understood why we are where we are, the parents of bright children will be wrongly deterred from sending them to us. Then, no matter what price we pay, we will be prevented from doing what we

believe. There will be even fewer bright children properly capable of understanding the worth of those who are less good at passing exams than they are, and little chance of sustaining a genuine democracy.

Yours faithfully, JEREMY NICHOLS. Headmaster. Stowe School. Stowe, Buckingham, November 19,

From the Headmaster of Colston's Collegiate School

Sir, Once again the Government's performance tables have been published with all pupils aged 15 being included, regardless of whether they sat any examinations.

As the number of 15-year-olds who do not sit the examinations in any school will vary from year to year, this information is misleading to parents and invalidates the results as perfor-

mance indicators. The DIEE has failed to come up with an adequate response to this problem. I would like to think that this inadequacy is reflected in its own performance indicators.

Yours sincerely, D. G. CRAWFORD, Headmaster, Colston's Collegiate School, Stapleton, Bristol. November 19.

From Mrs Gill Suddaby

Sir, Surely an A-level pass, whatever the grade, is more important to a young person for the rest of his or her life than the position of a school in a league table.

A local state-funded secondary school has recently adopted the policy of weeding out those students predicted as D or E grades nine months before the exam to safeguard their league position and, thus, funding.

Who pays the price for league tables? Who are we educating our young people for?

Yours faithfully. GILL SUDDABY, Stockhold Green Farm House, Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

ernment told councils to cut their con-

tributions to pension funds in an effort

to keep poll-tax levels down. Allowing

councils to divert money away from

pension funds exacerbated the pen-

of the monarchy From the Reverend Dr Ian Bradley

Sir, In all this talk of a Royal Family more in touch with public opinion (article and reports. November 21) we are in danger of missing the essential nature and purpose of monarchy.

The monarchy is not a democratic institution, still less the creature of popular opinion, but rather a divinely instituted symbol and mystery. At their coronations, our kings and queens are anointed in a ritual which has its origins in Old Testament times and underlines the spiritual nature of their calling. They are thereafter ac-countable first and foremost to God and not to a fickle populace so easily manipulated and swayed by the mass media. Their role may not be to lead public opinion, though in deep and subtle ways they can both express the mood of the nation and also exert a powerful example, but most certainly

nor are they there to pander to it. We need to think much more about the religious basis of monarchy and the exercise of its spiritual function. In the case of our present Queen, it has been expressed in a sacrificial commitment to duty and public service and a sure and steadfast Christian faith fortified and nourished through regular churchgoing. In the case of her eldest son, who I fervently hope will be our next King, it may well take a different form, in keeping with his declared desire to be a defender of faith and his deep sensitivity to

spiritual issues. The Royal Family were clearly engaged in and deeply moved by Thursday morning's service at Westminster Abbey. Many of the courtiers and commoners attending it, by contrast, were caught by the television cameras chattering, giggling or main-taining a sullen silence through the great hymns of the Christian faith.

They might care to reflect on the message of those familiar words which rang through the Abbey as the Queen and Prince Philip left. God will save the Queen, not public opinion and certainly not the media.

Yours faithfully. IAN BRADLEY. 7 Strathkinness High Road, St Andrews, Fife. November 21.

Early retirement

From the National Officer of Unison

Sir, The picture you paint of early retirement in local government (reports and leading article, November is deeply offensive to council workers forced out of their jobs through redundancy.

The endless cuts and reorganisations in local government have meant that councils have asked for "volunteers" for early retirement. Far from "allowing workers to retire early" many have reluctantly accepted this option feeling that they had a gun at their heads — either go voluntarily or be sacked with a much worse pay off. The fact is that local government workers have paid into their pension schemes for many years to provide for their retirement and are entitled to a decent pension.

The scandal is that in 1989 the Gov-

From the Chair of the Local Government Association

I Mabledon Place, WC1.

sions crisis we see today.

(Head of local government),

KEITH SONNET

November 13.

Unison,

Sir, Your suggestion that the £5.7 bil-lion cost to local authorities of early retirement over five years could be used to improve schools and roads, is misleading. The money is not available for spending on capital investment.
It is unreasonable to imply that

local authorities choose to retire people early on dubious redundancy

from Winchester and Beckenham it is

clear there is no public support for this

anti-Europe stance and a further

change of direction is needed if the

party is ever to regain the support of

20 Chepstow Drive, Bletchley,

Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

win their way back.

the country.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID TAYLOR,

dtaylor657@aol.com November 21.

grounds rather than invest in services which everyone agrees are grossly underfunded. The fact is that early retirement has been used as one way of catting expenditure in order to prevent deeper cuts to direct services. The genuine savings on long-term staffing costs have typically been recycled into

ledges that many local authorities are already following the recommendations made in its report. Local government itself urged a more rigorous approach six months ago, following advice from the United Kingdom Steering Committee on local govern-

Local Government Association, November 13.

their line on a single currency in the belief that by clinging to the coat tails

From Mr Jan Bowater

Winchester result

Sir, Your report today (later editions) on the Winchester result conveyed some surprise that, despite the Formula One campaign-funding scandal, Labour's honeymoon continues. Why?

After a year of tedious congressional committees here, the only thing certain about fundraising scandals is that they do not play well with the public. Even the far less sophisticated

American electorate knows that they Yours etc.

IAN BOWATER, 3171 Barry Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90066. ssims@ucla.edu November 21.

From Mr David Taylor

Sir. At the general election we watched panicking Conservative candidates rushing to denounce Europe and the

Since their disastrous result, we have seen the remains of the parliamentary Conservative Party harden

Sir, As a disillusioned Tory, I suggest that the Conservative Party changes

From Mrs Pamela Morgan

its candidate for Winchester and its party leader: then it might stand a chance of winning back Winchester and the rest of the country at the next

Yours faithfully. PAMELA MORGAN. Rothiemurchus, St Cross Hill. Winchester, Hampshire. November 21.

By train and bike

From Mr Richard N. Hutchins Sir, In 18 years of retirement I have

enjoyed cycle-rail travel in all parts of Britain (letters, November 20). I am convinced that one of the best ways to combine these two useful means of transport is to go "folded". There are now folding cycles on the

market which match the performance of conventional cycles. Under the old BR rules, which seem still to apply, Folded cycles enclosed in a container or case ... are treated as accompanied luggage and carried free".

My own strong cycle bag weighs just 14 lb, and my folding cycle weighs 28lb. I have taken them by bus, coach, plane and train without any difficulty, and for the past eight months I have been making regular visits to a sick relative in five different hospitals and homes in Surrey, some 80 or 90 miles from my home. Never once have I

used a car.

Seven years ago (March 13, 1990), in a letter which you published from me on the same subject, I offered to provide your readers with a free leaflet describing 75 leisure cycle routes between railway stations (now 150 routes, covering 7,000 miles); over 100 readers wrote to me in response. Clearly there is some interest.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD HUTCHINS. 171 High Street, Clapham, Bedford. November 20.

Weekend Money letters, page 61

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number -0171-782 5046 e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

new jobs, mostly in education and social services. The Audit Commission acknow-

ment pensions. Yours sincerely, JEREMY BEECHAM, Chair,

26 Charter Street, SWI.

Rude, but not very

of Eurosceptic public optrion they will From Mr Stuart Kershaw In the light of the election results

Sir, Maureen Lipman is upset at Victor Lewis-Smith (Diary, November 19) because he called Vanessa Feltz a Yenta. Maureen need not worry. My uncle, a Yiddishophone of great sensitivity, habitually refers to his beloved wife, after 50 years plus of

happy marriage, as the Yenta. It

means "her indoors". Gossipy pos-

sibly. Cunning never. Yours faithfully. STUART KERSHAW, Mill Hill, NW7. kershaw@winkworth hendon.

demon.co.uk November 19.

In a flat spin

From Dr David B. Cook

Sir, Along with a number of other gifted and hard-working people, my wife has a PhD, which involved the study of the magnetism due to the spin of electrons and nuclei.

Both of us find the current campaign of vilification aimed at spindoctors thoroughly offensive.

Yours sincerely. D. B. COOK. Department of Chemistry. University of Sheffield. Sheffield S3 7HF. d.b.cook@sheffield.ac.uk November 20.

Holiday reading

From Mr Nicholas Russell Sir, I see that the summer holiday reading scheme was a success (report.

November 20). May I recommend that some consideration should be given to running a scheme to teach reading in term time?

Yours, NICHOLAS RUSSELL, 37 School Lane, Haslingfield, Cambridge. nicholas@larmanprinters.bdx.co.uk



COURT CIRCULAR

Agricultural Society's new Mem-

bers' Pavilion at Staffordshire

County Showground. Western. Road, Stafford.

College of Occupational Thera-

pists. later visited the Occupa-

nonal Therapy Department, Bucknall Hospital, Eaves Lane,

Bucknall. Stoke-on-Trent.

November 21: The Princess Mar-

garet. Countess of Snowdon this afternoon visited Tyne and Wear

and was received by Her Majesty's

Lord-Lieutenant (Colonel Sir

Her Royal Highness visited L.G. Electronics North of England Lim-ited, Birdey Road, Washington

The Princess Margaret, Count-

ess of Snowdon, President, the Guide Association, later visited

members of the Durham North

Guide Association at Dryden Pro-

fessional Development Centre, Evistones Road, Gateshead.

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-In-Chief, The Light Dragoons, was

the Regiment at Blagdon Hall, Seaton Burn, and was received by

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Northumberland (the Viscount

November 21: The Duke of Kent, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The

(Carabiniers and Greys), this

morning preented Duke of Kent Medals at the Cavairy and Guards

Scots Dragoon Guards

Ridley KG).

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE

esent this evening at a Reception

past and present members of

KENSINGTON PALACE

Ralph Carr-Ellison).

Her Royal Highness, Patron,

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 21: Major General Sir Philip Ward (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex) was present at Gatwick Airport. London, this morning upon the Departure of The King and Queen of Sweden and bade farewell to Their Majesties on behalf of The

The Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton (Baroness in Waiting) Northolt today upon the Departure of The Queen of the Netherlands and Prince Claus of the Netherlands and hade farewell to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness on behalf of The Queen. The Lord Haskel (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the Departure of The King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and bade farewell to His Majesty

on behalf of The Que BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 21: The Duke of York this morning left Gatwick Airport, London, to visit Montserrat, the Leeward Islands.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 21: The Princess Royal, Patron, the Butler Trust, this morning visited Her Majesty's Prison Brinsford, New Road, Featherstone. Wolverhampton. and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire

(Mr James Hawley). Her Royal Highness, President, later visited the Save the Children Shop, II Bird Street, Lichfield, Statlordshire. The Princess Royal this afternoon opened the Staffordshire

Royal engagements TODAY:

tish Rugby Union, will attend the Scotland v Australia International Match at Murrayfield Stadium. Edinburgh, at 1.10. TOMORROW: Princess Alexandra will attend

service in Winchester Cathedral to mark the Golden Wedding Anniversary of the Oueen and the Duke of Edinburgh at 2.55.

Inner Temple

Mr John Adams, the Registrar of Civil Appeals, has been elected a Master of the Bench of the Inner

Memorial service The Right Rev Hugh Gough

Club, Piccadilly, London Wi.

A memorial service for the Right Rev Hugh Gough, former Arch-bishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia, was held yesterday at St Peter's, Over Wallop, Hampshire. The Rev Alan Graham officiated. The Bishop of Liverpool and Mr Tony Hope led the prayers. The Right Rev A.J. Dain and the Bishop of Barking read the les-sons. The Right Rev Lord Coggan gave an address.

Latest will

Robert Peel Charles Cracroft-Eley, of Lincoln, left estate valued at £725,419 nec.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: The Right Rev M.E. Adie, former Bishop of Guildford 66; the Rev Lord Beaumont of tennis player, 30: Mr John Bird, actor and writer, 61; Ms Helen Browning, organic farmer, 36: Mr Jon Cleary, novelist, 80: Mr Tom Conti, actor, 55: Miss Jamie Lee Curtis (Lady Haden-Guest), ac Headmaster, St Dunstan's College, 68: Brigadier Hillary Dixon-Nuttall, former director, Army Nursing Services, 58; Mr Terry Gilliam, film animator, 57; Sir Peter Hall, director of plays, films and opera, 67; Mr Stephen Hough, concert planist 36; Sir Andrew Huxley, OM, FRS. physiologist, 80; Lord Iliffe, 53; Mrs Billie Jean King, tennis player. 54; Professor Sir John Knill, geologist. 63; Mr Neil McGrath, racehorse trainer. 41: Mr Peter McMaster, civil servant, 66: Mr John Newman, trade unionist, 66: Mr Justice Owen, 72; Mr R.M. Reeve, former Head Master, King's College School, Wimbledon, 63: the Earl of Romney 87: Mr H.A. Sweethaum. Michael Walker, diplomat, 81.

trical engineer, 75: Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Biggs, 59; Mrs Anne Burns, former gliding champion. 82; Mr John Cole, broadcaster. 70; Mr Rob Denmark, athlete, 29; Colonel Sir Allan Gilmour, former Lord-Lieutenant of Sutherland, 81; Mr Michael Gough, actor, 80; Mr GJ. Hearne, chairman and chief executive, Enterprise Oil, 60; Sir John Hermon, former Chief Constable, RUC. 69: the Most Rev Patrick Kelly, Archbishop of Liverpool, 59: Sir Michael Knight. chairman, Cobham, 65; Sir David Lees, chairman, GKN, 61; Mr Christopher Logue, poet and au-thor, 71; Mr Alan Mullery, football manager, 56; Mr J.C. Oxley, former director-general, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, 59; Mr Krzysztof Penderecki, com-poser, 54; Mr Anton Poot, former chairman, Philips Electronics and Associated Industries, 68: Lord Associated industries, oc. Lord Prosser. 63: Miss Diana Quick, actress, 51; Sir Peter Saunders, theatrical producer, 86: Sir Peter Strawson, FBA, philosopher, 78: Chancellor, Liverpool University, 63; Mr Nigel Tranter, author, 88; Lieutenant-Colonel George West, former comptroller. Lord Chamberlain's Office, 60.

Dinners

Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and the Sher-ills and their ladies, was a speaker at the annual livery dinner of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers' Company held last night at the Mansion House. Mr Nigel S. Nichols, Master, assisted by the Wardens, presided. Mr Peter Padley-Smith, First Warden, and Sir David Neuberger also spoke. Among others present were:

Among others present were:
The High Commissioner for Uganda, the Masters of the Broderers', Loriners', Glass Sellers' and Tobacco Blenders' Companies, the Principal of the Royal School of Needlework and representatives from the company's association with the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force.

Assistant Commissioners' Mess Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, presided at the annual reunion dinner of the Assistant Commissioners' Mess. held last night at New Scotland

Yard. Old Bedfiredians Club

Mr M.R. Steele-Bodger was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Old Bedfordians Club held last night at the East India, Devonshire, Sports and Public Schools Club. Mr J.G.P. Crowden, president, (OB 41-46) was the host. Mr I.P. Evans, Head Master of Bedford School, at-

Royal College of Radiologi Dr Michael Brindle, President of the Royal College of Radiologists, and Mrs Brindle, were the hosts at the annual dinner held last night at the Royal College of Physic Dr J. Boyce, Director of Health Studies, Audit Commission, was the speaker.

Among the guests were Lord Kilpatrick of Kincraig, Sir Denis Thatcher and Baroness Thatcher, LG, OM, FRS, Sir Kenneth Calman, Mrs Y Moores, Sir Donald irvine and representatives of the Medical Royal Colleges and

London Chamber of Con and Industry

The Crown Prince of Jordan was the guest speaker at the annual dinner of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry held last night at Grosvenor House. Sir Brian Jenkins, president, was the

199 Stratod

A dinner was given by 199 Strand at Claridge's on Friday, November 21, 1997, to mark the retirement of Robin Stewart, QC, as Head of Chambers. The toast to Robin Stewart, QC, who continues in full time practice, was proposed by Peter Andrews, QC, his successor.



Weekend anniversaries

RIRTHS: Richard Neville, (The Kingmaker), Earl of Warwick and Earl of Salishury, 1428; Robert de La Salle, explorer in America, Rouen, 1643; Dugald Stewart, philosopher, Edinburgh, 1753; Andreas Hofer, Tyrolese patriot, St Leonhard, Austria, 1767; Thomas Cook, pioneer of travel agencies, Melbourne, Derbyshire, 1806; George Eliot, novelist, Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire, 1879; Justin McCarthy, novelist and historian, Cork. 1830; George Gissing, nov-elist, Wakefield, 1857; Cecil Sharp, founder of the English Folk Dance Society, London, 1859; André Gide, writer, Nobel laureate 1947, Paris, 1869; Charles de Gaulle, general. President of France 1958-69, Lille, 1890; Hoagy Carmichael. pianist and composer, Bloomington, In-diana, 1899; Benjamin Britten, Baron Britten, composer, Lowes-

DEATHS: Sir Martin Frobisher, navigator, Plymouth, 1994; John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury 1691-94, London, 1694; Robert Clive, Baron Clive of Plassey, Governor of Bengal, committed suicide, London, 1774; John Stackhouse, botanist, Bath, 1819;

toft, 1913.

The Times 1841-77, Ascot, 1879; Sir Arthur Sullivan, composer, London, 1900; Jack London, novelist. Glen Ellen, California, 1916: Sir George White, pioneer of electric transvays and aviation, and philanthropist, Bristol, 1916; Lorenz Hart, songwriter, New York, 1943; Sir Arthur Eddington, astronomer, Cambridge, 1944; C.S. Lewis, writer, Oxford, 1963; Aldous Huxley, novelist, Los Angeles, 1963; John F. Kennedy, 35th American President 1961-63, assas sinated, Dallas, 1963; Mae West, actress, Los Angeles, 1980.

Today is the feast day of Cecilia, the patron saint of music, singers

The first Biro ballpoint pen went on sale in Britain, 1946. Juan Carlos de Bourbon was sworn in as the King of Spain,

TOMORROW BIRTHS: John Wallis, mathematician, Ashford, Kent, 1616; François Babeuf, revolutionary, St. Quentin, 1760: Franklin Pierce, Hillsboro, New Hampshire, 1804; James Thomson, poet, author of The City of Dreadful Night, Glas-gow, 1834; Marya Bashkirtseva, painter, Pultowa, Russia, 1860; Manuel de Falla, composer, Cadiz, 1876: Boris Karloff, actor, London,

مِكذا من رلامل

DEATHS: Perkin Warbeck, pretender to the throne, executed, London, 1499; Thomas Tallis, organist and composer, London, 1985; Richard Hakluyt, geog-rapher, London, 1616; Hans Willem Bentinck, ist Earl of Portland, statesman, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, 1709: Abbé Prévost, novelist, Chantilly, Prance, 1763; Sir Roger Newdigate, antiquary, Arbury, Warwickshire, 1806; Johana Bode, astronomer, Berlin, 1826; Friedrich Struve, astmomer, St Petersburg, 1864; Charles Booth, shipowner and sociologist, Leicestershire, 1916; Sir Arthur Wing Pinero, dramatist, London, 1934; André Malraux, writer and statesman, Paris, 1976. The River Thames froze, 1434. The first pillar boxes were erected at St Helier, Jersey, 1852.

The meat market at Smithfield opened, London, 1868.

The first episode of Dr Who was screened on BBC television, 1963.

Forthcoming marriages

Lieutenant J.K.P. Boorman, RN. Mr. J.H. Darge and Lieutenant J.C. Goddard, and Miss M.L. Toomey and Lieutenant J.C. Goddard,

The engagement is announced between Justin, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Boorman, of London, and Josephine, elder daughter of Mrs Frances Camp-bell-Colquhoun and the late Mr Hugh Goddard, of Teddington,

Mr M.R.E. Cooper and Miss O.C.G. Hollidge

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Captain and Mrs Roger Cooper, of Charlwood Surrey, and Olivia, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Hollidge, of Burwood Park, Surrey.

Mr P.R. Cox and Miss A. Heatma

The engagement is announced between Paul, only son of Mr Peter Cox. of Sandford-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Mrs Peter Mallalieu, of Sandwich, Kent, and Annalie, elder daughter of Mr Michael Heaton, of Spranon, Northamptonshire, and Mrs Antonia Heaton, of North

Mr S.P. Oakley and Miss R.M. Otway The engagement is announced between Stephen, eldest son of Mr J.P. Oakley, of Sheffield, and Mrs F.C. Marshallsay, of Winfrith Newburgh, and Ruth, second daughter of the late Rev R.B. Otway and of Mrs Otway, of Walpole.

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Darge, of Worcester, and Monique, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Toomey, of Huntly, New Zealand. The marriage will take place on April II in Huntly.

Mr J.M. Hadjipateras and Miss X.N.D. Lemos The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr Marcos Hadjipateras and Mrs Kalliopi Pateras, and Xenia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicolas D. Lemos.

Dr S.C. Hellier and Dr K.D. Bridgland The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Dr and Mrs Michael Hellier, of Aldbourne, Wiltshire, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Bridgland, of Slinfold, Sussex Mr M.D.L. Huntingford

and Miss T.C. Dougherty The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Captain between Michael, son of Capain and Mrs D.G. Huntingford, of Codeigh, Devon, and Tryphena, second daughter of the late Mr and Mrs T.G.C. Dougherty, of Goethurst, Somerset. Mr S.L. Kacary

and Miss M.L. Jones The engagement is announced between Sebastian, youngest son of the late Mr Eugeniusz Kacary and of Mrs Kacary, of Chelse London, and Marisa, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Clive Jones, of Llansannor, Vale of Glamorgan.

Service dinners

er Flotilla Chief Superintendant Della Cannings, of the Devon and Cornwall Constability, was the principal guest at a ladies guest night dinner of the Exerc Florilla held last night at the Royal Marines Commando Training Centre, Lympstone, by permission of Brigadier J.V. Nicholls. Engineer Lieutenant D.G. Mercer presided. Com-modore P.D. Stone, Commodore Amphibious Warfare, also spoke. Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Anson,

Brockman and Rear-Admiral Sir

Ronald Forrest were among those

Sharpshooters Yeomanny Major A.N. Gillman was the guest

of honour at the annual dinner of the Sharpshoolers Yeomanny Association held last night at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelses. Mr Guy Farage, chair-man, presided.

49 Infantry Division
The annual dinner for the Polar Bear Dinner Club of 49 Infantry Division/49 Infantry Brigade was held last night at Chetwind Bar-racles, Chilwell, Nothinghamshire. Brigadier Johnny Walker presided

PAII Scribe Command
Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, received the guests at a dimning-in-night held last night at Headquarters Strike Command. RAF High Wycombe, Group Cap-tain G.S. Harker presided.

Appointments

Mr Andrew Edward Wilson Park. QC, and Mr Nicholas Richard Pumírsy, QC, to be Justices of the High Court, assigned to the Chancery Division.

Mr Stephen Price Richards to be a Justice of the High Court, assigned to the Queen's Bench Division.



Harrison and Paul McCartney, and Jane Asher

MAHARISHI FOLLOWERS **BUY MENTMORE**

Mentmore, the Victorian mansion near Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, which the Government refused to buy for the nation, is to become an international centre for the study of transcendental meditation. The mansion, built between 1852 and 1854, with park, woodland and ornamental grounds covering 80 acres, has been bought for £240,000 by the Age of Enlightenment for Great Britain, otherwise known as the Maharishi International College.

The buyers are followers of the teaching of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, who first received a lot of publicity in the 1960s. The college has its headquarters at Roydon Hall, near Tonbridge, Kent, and there are two other colleges in Cheshire and Suffolk, but they have not enough room for people taking study courses. A search, therefore, began for larger premises that could also become the college's international headquarters. Six weeks ago, still without a suitable house. the college telephoned the Department of the Environment, whose historic buildings office said that Mentmore was still for sale. Three companies were interested in turning the 60-bedroom property into flats, another wanted it for a recording studio, and one was interested

ON THIS DAY

November 22, 1978

In the 1960s the Beatles took up Indian guru, Maharishi Yogi. In 1978 the maharishi's followers bought for £240,000 Mentmore Towers, a Victorian mansion that had belonged to Lord Rosebery. Today the Maharishi Foundation is looking for new and bigger headquarters and Mentmore is on the market for more than £10 million.

in buying it for a private home. Mr Vesey Crighton, director of Age of Enlightenment in Britain, said yesterday: "The house has been empty for about a year. and although it is in good shape, I think people were beginning to worry about its falling into a bad state. We shall have to renair the roof and re-decorate, but it will not be expensive because our followers will do it in exchange for meditation classes. We hope that the people who work on the estate, whom we shall keep on, will be pleased that the house is being put to beneficial use, but we expect some initial local curiosity."

advanced training of its 400 teachers in transcendental meditation, and it plans to run courses for foreign government officials. Followers include members of the Swedish Air Force, the Honduran Army, Norwegian commandos, the Ca-nadian Civil Service, local government officers in the Philippines and female

The college will use Mentmore for the

t office workers in Chi Recently a group of doctors who practise transcendental meditation wrote to Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, urging him to make it available on the National Health Service. Mr Crighton said yesterday that discussions were going on about that. The method was already being used in a borstal, he said.

The sixth Lord Rosebery died in 1974 and his heir who lives in Scotland, was faced with about £5 million estate duty. There was a storm when the Government refused to buy the house and its treeasure trove of art and antiques from Lord Rosebery for a reported £3 million in lieu of the duty. Later the contents were sold at auction for £6 milion. Mentmore Towers was designed by Sir Joseph Paxton, best known for the Crystal Palace, and built for a Rothschild. It has a grand hall, five state and major reception rooms, seven bedroom suites and around 50 more bedrooms.]



BMDS: 0171 680 6880

TOMORROW: Professor Emer-

PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

I set my heart upon possess-ing wisdom, and by keeping myself pure I found har. With her I gained under-standing from the first; theuston I shall news be at a leas. Sudementon 51: 30 BURTHS

BIRTHS

SNVCE - James and Segan (née Found) are delighted to innorme the birth of their designes. Lethryn Founs, on Monday November 17th 1997, at Sangara Sangaral Materials Pavilion, Maternity Edinburch

CLEAVER - On Thursday
November 20th at The
Princess Boyal, Haywards
Heath, to Mandy (née
Hodgen) and Gaorge, a som,
Rex Charles George, a
brother for Kity.

Evil On Home Levil III
(née Passey) and Mark, a
som, Rafus Ambrose David, a
boother for Manuscher 15th to

FRED - On November 15th, to Sue (née Card) and Clive, a son, Thomas Sovard.

POSTER - On 20th October 1997, to Time (nos Davies) and Mark, a daughter, Irabella Kate, a sister for GORE - On November 18th, to Sarah (née Friezoli) and Simon, a daughter, Marzie Rose, a sister for Sam and

at The Portland Hospital to Susan and Hickard, a son, Hatthew Francis, a inother for Matabase

perparation and Nigel Pindar would like to amounce the birth of their son, Charles Alexander Baykond at Hinchingbrooke Hospital, on the 19th November, weighing diffuse.

RESCHAVE PAYER - On 19th November, to Scarlett (nie Hopking) and Conrad, a daughter, Clava Scarlett, a sister for Medeline. The Portland Hospital to Patricia (née Hardy) and Christopher, a daughter Helen Allam, a shaw ler Anna and Mark.

ROBINSON - On 20th November at Loyal Hospital Characteristics and last, a daughter, Elsa Louise, a daughter, Elsa Louise, a VAN AEKEN - On 6th November, to Kristien (De Wult) and Chris, a special son, Robin.

17th 1997, to Joanne (née Pryke) and Tim, a son, Thomas William. MOZENCROFT - On 19th November 1997, at St Mary's, Paddington, to Larins (née Shears) and Feter, a daughter, Amelle Françoise.

DEATHS

SLACKBURN - On 18th November proceedily at her SLACKBURN - On 18th
Movember pencefully at her
home in wheeleder after a
long liliness Lindsey
Catherine Faith, beloved
wife of Barry, such loved
mother of Richard and
James Fonant Berrice at
Chief Chench, wheeleden,
on Thursday 27th November
at 2 pm, followed by
cremation at Putney Vale
Constraints, Denation if
wished to Royal Mursdan
Cancer Fund to P.W. Fains a
Co. 6 Coumbe Lam. Pryss
Fath, London 5w20 SND, tel(0181) 940-1974.

BUILER - Belon Elizabeth

(Betty) Church Warden and well known Contralto school on 16th Horman Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Charibury, Onen at 3 pm on Saturday 29th Nowmber. Flowers or deputions to St Mary's November. Flowers or donations to St Mary's Church or Can Protection League e'o AL Sole & Son, Chipping Norton, Oxen.

Onkhill House Nursing Rome, Rossham (formerly of Stmwberry Hill, Middlesen) peacefully after a long liber. Nelved her a long liber. Nelved herband of the late Millicent Jose Farley, father of Alyson Farley, father of Alyson and hecker of Mary Mundy (1601by) and Minty Saylis. Peneral Service at licetishes Cramscrian at Friday November 28th at 2.30 m. Dematicus may be made in the Craft Sarvice Research of the Craft Sarvice Research of the Parkinsons Disease Society of T.H. Sanders & Sons, 28-30 Kew Road, Richmond, Surney Twy 200. Tel. 1811 946 1551.

ZNA Tet 0181 948 1551.

BUTLES - Halen Mary Lettin
M.B.E., J.F.; widow of E.R.
Buttin ("Butch") mother of
Martin, peacefully on
November 16th aged 90;
Funeral at South West
Hiddless Cremtorium,
Hounslow Road, Hanworth,
Feltham at 11.30 am
Thursday December 4th;
followed by a reception in
the Hyde Meen, Nat Home,
Richmond Boad,
Twickenham, Furnity Howers
only; donations, if desired,
to Shalter or similar charity.

DOUGLAS - On Sunday November 16th, 1997 pascefuly at Felix Holme, hestbourns and formerly of Harte-conford and Aller Wing Commander Affred Graham Douglas IPC, aged 89 years, much loved husband of the late Maria Douglas. His memory will always be cherished by his children and step children, Kyra, Lira, Virian, Elmabeth and Anderew, by alisyrandchildren Micola, Christopher, Robert, Alexander and Natalia and by his great grandchildren Charlotte and Anna, Funeral service at Church of St James, Adhaust, ar Stepsing on Thursday, November 27th at 12.30pm, Inquiries to Haine & Son, funeral directors. Eastbourne.

The second secon

PARRENSMITH - John, died peccetally on Tasaday 18th Rovember following a short but consequent fight against illness. A man for all seasons, he touched the lives of so many with his warrath, friendship and generosity. His indominable spirit will never be fongottes. Greatly loved and sadly missed by Gwen, Bobert. Vanests and all members of his extended family. Fuperpiatrangements to be smoothed.

FOLEY-COMEN - Resemary, Feacefully on November 20th in the devoted care of the Blatter of S. Tresserie Hestigartial Home. She was leved by all those who and the privilege of knowing her. Frances Williams Jewich Cometery 1 o'clock on Surface 25rd November.

BAMKS - John Alwyn on Rovember 20th 1597 at Onkhill House Rursing Rome, Rocalum (formerly of Sumboury Rill, Riddiness) peacefully after a long filmes. Belowed harband at the late Millicent John Farley, father of Alyson (Thomas) house of Change and Simon and hother of Mary Muchy (Molly) and Minty Baylis. Puneral Service at Receiving Constitution of Drivin and Simon and hother of Mary Muchy (Molly) and Minty Baylis. Puneral Service at Receiving Constitution of Parkers Minty Choling and Minty Baylis. Puneral Service at Receiving Constitution of Parkers Minty John, sied peacefully on Thomady 18th Rovember 28th at Receiving Rocalum and Receiving Constitution of Parkers Minty John, sied peacefully on Thomady 18th Rovember 28th at Receiving Rocalum and Receiving Roca

MANUAL - Margari (Ma Masson) died 20th November in hospital. Widow of Dr. Ismes Farchies, Socker I Ma and William, Peneral private. FRET - Helena (nie Crii) ded waardig on November ALP' - Helena (née Crill) ded peacefaily en November 20th. Beloved wife of Father with a Carti-panie, within and Circu-ty and Circu-funcial Pt. Thomas Carti-West Mill. SW18 1.30pm Thomas 25th November 16 Conston, may be neede to "Lourdes Pligninage" clo Cartistopher Wickenden-funcial Septices, 71 Greenfood Avenue, Landen W7 11.

W7 11.j.

DOM: - On Servenius 19th,
Alfred Wallace aged 88.

Generity band remined of the
late juniou and father of
Deirdies and the late
Consumption hally meaned by
all his relatives expecially
life these grandchildren and
three greet grand children.
Fameral on Thursday
Hovember 27th at 85 Januar
Chunch Genzards Cases at 12
moon. Flowers or densations.

moon. Flowers or densation, if wished to EVLI may be sent to E C Gelmsteed Ltd. Churchfield Lodge, Churchfield III, Chalbert 9: Peter. Tal (01753) 891200. on 20th Rovember 1997, aged 79. Believed wife of Sapold Penami at 120 pm on Tuesday 25th Newscher at 8 Theissa - on - The Rounes Bennesia. at a wastery 25th Nevember at 28 Thesaus - on - The Bourne, Franchem Ecod, Farnham Fearliy flowers only but, if desired, demotions to Phyllis Puchadi Hospice, c/o Thoms-Leggett, Petersfield Road, Whitadill, Bourne, CHS 921.

The Mercanber D. Men. died 11 at Hereamber 1997 is Theles Enspiral, Dim. Noch invel hauben of Angels and brother of Mirjam. No funeral, Body Gousted for Medical Research. Densitions in Here of Elevers to Mandales Research Prince of Dick Edwards, 52 Princy Street, Calchaster Research 200 208.

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TROUBLE - On November
20th 1997 Dr. Colin
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against Mystersan. Dearly
level kunbund of Maureau,
dear father of Garry, Richael,
Frances and Cetriona,
dearrest Papa of Jemma,
jamin and Sophie. Françai
Service at St Saivator's
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St Andrews on Truesday
Hovember 25th at 1.30
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19000 MUTT - Romes,
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Weddelity - Romm, parcefully on 17th Hormony. Delived mother and grandmother who is sorely missed by no all. The particular for the solid mother of the constant of the solid mother of the Mary, The Boltons 5W10. Family flowers only. Donstions may be made to The Longues of Friends, Morthwood and Pinner Goumunity Hospital' berthanol EAS 11E. GOLDEN **ANNIVERSARIES**

and Marie on 222 IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE CHEFOWELL - John. Ferrors in my heart, making. Had. WHITTHE - Line, nor belonger star. All our love on your 22od bistheles.

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Appaintment.

THE RIGHT REV HUGH GOUGH

The Right Rev Hugh Gough, CMG, OBE, Archbishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia. 1959-66, died on November 13 aged 92. He was born on September 19, 1905.

s Bishop of Barking, Hugh Gough was chairman of the original Billy Graham crusade committee that organised the first visit to this country of the American evangelist in 1954, At the time, Dr Graham was a distinctly controversial figure, presiding over nightly rallies at Harringay Arena, culminating after two months in a Saturday mass gathering — nearly 100,000-strong — at Wernbley Stadium. Gough, naturally, became caught up in the controversial reverberations.

Not all churchmen were happy with either Dr Graham's message or his meth-ods, and in a debate at the Oxford Union Gough lost by one vote to George MacLeod of the Iona Community on a motion deploring the endorsement that he and his friends had given to the Graham crusade. Some of the statements made in the debate, the bishop declared in his own speech, had made him "extremely angry".

For the most part, however, Gough, who liked to take a glass of wine with a meal, lacked the rigid cast of mind that sometimes characterises the extreme Low Church party. Brought up very much in the Evangelical tradition — his a small parish in Carlisle.

Leonard Matthews.

comies editor, died on

November 9 aged 83. He

was burn on

October 10, 1914.

father was rector of St Ebbe's, Oxford - his own career within the Church of England was, until its rather sad end, a copybook success.

A chaplain during the war, he went on to be the postwar vicar and rural dean of Islington (and thus chairman of the once renowned Islington clerical conference) before moving to the Chelmsford diocese to become Bishop of Barking and Archdeacon of West Ham in 1948. It was from there, ten years later, that he was plucked by the avowedly Prot-estant archdiocese of Sydney to become its last expatriate English archbishop — a post that subsequently brought him the primacy of Australia.

A striking and imposing figure, Hugh Rowlands Gough went to school at

Weymouth College, and from there proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took a third in history and a second in geography. He pre-pared for ordination at the London Bible College, and only perhaps broke loose from his background by getting married the year after he was ordained - something that in those days was usually frowned upon. The match, though, with the younger daughter of the 12th Baron Kinnaird, was a thoroughly advantageous one, and from then on the just-ordained priest had no financial wor-ries. He moved easily and comfortably in elevated social circles — becoming chaplain to the High Sheriff of Cumberland when he was still vicar of



His war service did his prospects no harm either. Volunteering as a chaplain in 1939, when he had just been ap-pointed vicar of St Matthew's,

Bayswater, he served in the Western Desert, Tunisia and Italy, being promoted to be a deputy assistant chaplain general, gaining a mention in

LEONARD MATTHEWS

dispatches and being appointed OBE (military division) in 1945. He returned to his Bayswater parish at the end of the war, only to be swiftly preferred to the badly bombed out famous church of St Mary, Islington, where he had served his first curacy.

If there was a hiatus in Gough's upward rise within the C of E, it occurred perhaps in the decade that he spent as Bishop of Barking: in those days Evangelicals were seldom appointed to the diocesan bench. The summons to Australia, therefore, probably came as a relief, and at first all went well - with even the tugboats in Sydney Harbour sounding their whistles to welcome the arrival by liner of the bishop, his wife and their daughter.

In Britain, Gough had won something of a reputation for outspokenness, but the Australians were not necessarily averse to that, and Gough began to get into trouble only when he came out wholeheartedly in favour of Harold Holt's policy of supporting the Americans in Vietnam. He was accused of being "a recruiting sergeant for LBI", and it was not only the war's opponents who thought he had gone too far.

It was not, however, his robust attitude towards public affairs which in the end proved his undoing. Incredible as it may now seem, this came about in a quite different way - when suspicions were aroused as a result of his having being spotted driving in a car with a woman who

was not his wife. (Religious Australia at the time was a fairly repressed and intolerant place.) Although there was no real

basis for scandal, the whole thing was blown out of proportion and eventually the archbishop was smuggled home on furlough to Britain whence, a month or two later, a personal statement was issued saying that, because of his low blood pressure. his doctors had advised him to undertake no further work for six months, and that he felt that "it would be quite wrong for me to delay my return to Australia for so long". He was,

therefore, resigning.
It was a poignant end to what had promised to be a successful period leading the Australian Church: in the year of his arrival the archbishop had been elected Primate by his episcopal colleagues, and on the eve of his departure he was appointed CMG on the nomination of the Government of Australia.

In 1967, a year after his return to England, Gough became rector of Freshford, a small village a mile or two outside Bath, which two years later was joined with the neighbouring parish of Limp-ley Stoke. He laboured devotedly in this rural setting, but he was not, as is customary with retired bishops, appointed an assistant bishop of the diocese. In 1972, after five years of parish work, he retired to live first in the city of Bath and then in the Wallops in Hampshire. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

ROBERT SIMPSON



Robert Simpso composer and BBC producer, died yesterday aged 76. He was born on March 2, 1921.

ROBERT SIMPSON was one of the most serious and prolific of British composers of the past 50 years. By nature a traditionalist, and writing in traditional forms, he was a searching, wide-ranging composer and thinker whose oeuvre of symphonies and string quartets has yet to be fully assessed and digested.
Although for many years he

wrote against the grain and spirit of the times, his resolute insistence on following his own well-defined path finally broke the resistance of those who saw him as merely harking back to the past. He came to be regarded as the most important and visionary symphonist since Shostakovich.

A tough, wiry polemicist, Simpson often fell foul of the musical establishment, especially when it cravenly followed every fashion. His most fierce dispute - which gained him notoriety well beyond his own field --- was his battle in the early 1980s over the running of the Proms. He declared, loud and clear, that they should not be the preserve of one director for more than a year or two. One man's musical food is another's poison, so changing the Proms' administrator would allow for more than one taste

to be represented.

This deeply held belief and attracted a deal of support: but, needless to say, the BBC establishment brushed off the idea and carried on as before. Simpson's complaint was not engendered by resentment, it abstract visions. His contribular neglect of his own music. Arguably his symphonies may not have had their due over the years at the Proms but his works have been performed quite frequently on Radio 3.

Robert Wilfred Levick Simpson was educated at Westminster City School and studied music privately with Herbert Howells from 1941 to 1943. He was awarded his doctorate of music in 1951 on the strength of his First Symphony. After working freelance as a lecturer and a writer, he joined the BBC in 1951. From 1953 he was second in command of the Third Programme's music department and an eager champion of the music of Bruckner and Nielsen.

He resigned from the BBC in 1980, in protest against its

cultural policy, so freeing himself to criticise. He published Carl Nielsen, Symphonist in 1952 and a study of Bruckner's symphonies in 1967: these remain standard

works on these composers. Eleven symphonies and 12 string quartets form the back-bone of his output. They appeared at regular intervals over 40 years, with the inspiration seldom flagging. At the root of his music is a Brucknerian tension wrought from the opposition of conflicting tonalities, while the style of harmony orchestration owed much to his other idol, Nielsen. Yet, despite its patent ancestry, his body of work shows an independent, forceful and logical mind at work.

Only superficially was he conservative. As his fellow composer Robin Holloway once wrote in The Spectator, the relentless rigour with which he pursues the abstracts of construction paradoxically makes him one of the most radical of living composers anywhere".

Typical of his later output was his Ninth Symphony. Retaining the same pulse for its full 50 uninterrupted minutes, it demanded attention and perfectly showed the composer's Nielsen-like logic and Bruckner-like spaciousness - although the influence of Bach too was important.

in his quartets he was always ready to exploit devices to his own ends - the muchlauded Ninth Quartet, for instance, consists of 32 palindromic variations and a fugue on a theme of Haydn. Yet the grammar and intellectual toughness of Simpson's music were always at the service of nust be said, nor any particu-tion to the chamber music repertory, and not only string quartets, is enormous, and may come to be regarded as even more important than his

symphonic output.

As he demonstrated in many broadcasts for the BBC. he was a penetrating and enlightening analyst of a great corpus of music. The rather dry delivery could not hide an urgent commitment to his message. He was also an inspirational producer. Music was his whole life, and he wanted others to be blessed with at least some of his own intuitions and joy at its peculiar ability to move the spirit. In 1946 Robert Simpson married Bessie Fraser. She died in 1981, and a year later he married Angela Muserave. There were no children of

and their son and daughter.

MILESTONES



Lady Tryon, dress designer, died on Novem-ber 15 aged 49. She was born on January 3, 1948. Born Dale Elizabeth Harper

in Melbourne, Australia, Kanga — as she was nicknamed by the Prince of Wales -- faced more than her share of suffering with resolute courage. From birth she suffered from spina bifida. and she did not walk until she was nine. In London in the early 1970s she was introduced by Prince Charles to Anthony Tryon, a banker almost ten years her senior. and they were married at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace in 1973. As well as a mother of four and an accomplished hostess, she became a successful fashion designer, using £2,000 of her savings to open a dress shop, Kanga, in Beauchamp Place in 1980, eventually achieving a turnover above £1 million a year. She also raised money successfully for charities. But illhealth blighted her last years, and in 1996. after many serious operations, a fall from an upper window left her with a broken back and fractured skull. Obituary published on November 17.

Georges Marchais, Secretary-General of the French Communist Party, 1972-94, died on November 16 aged 71. He was born on June 7, 1920.

A bluff proletarian with an almost comical pugnacity, Georges Marchais had neither intellectual gifts nor statesmanlike vision. After a distinctly unheroic war, when he was apparently on the wrong side of the great divide in occupied France, he joined the Communist Party

at 27 and rose to be organising secretary by 1961. As Secretary-General he at first loosened the party's ties with Moscow and moved it towards the Socialists, believing in a form of Euro-

communism". But in 1977 he broke his alliance with the Socialists. This did not stip him in 1981 from accepting François Mitterrand's offer of some Communist posts in government but the party withdrew to purist isolation in 1984. When communism in Eastern Europe collapsed in 1989-90, he was left blus-

tering in oblivion. Obituary published on November 17.

Stefan Lorant, photojournalist, died on November 14 aged 96. He was born on February 22, 1901.

A Hungarian Jew who moved to Berlin in 1920. Stefan Lorant was imprisoned in 1933 and moved to England the following year as a fervent anti-Nazi. His book I Was Hitler's Prisoner was to sell almost half a million copies. In 1937 he launched the pocket magazine Lilliput, which with its original subject matter, humour, and lively pictures achieved instant popularity. At a time when news photographers were content to present official likenesses and formal records. Lorant insisted that they get inside the occasion and capture the feel

of events. In 1938, he launched another magazine. Picture Post, again providing a winning formula, but he did not stay long as editor. Having been denied British nationality he moved to America in 1940.

Obituary published November 18.

Air Commandant Dame Jean Conan Doyle, DBE, Director of the Women's Royal Air Force, 1963-66, and daughter of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, died on November 19 aged 84. She was born on December 21, 1912.

The product of Sir Arthur's second marriage, Jean Conan Doyle remembered sitting in a big red leather chair next to the fireplace, listening to the sound of her father's nib rushing with hardly a pause across page after page. She was 17 when he died. She



joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1938. After the war she became head of the WRAF. It was, however, as the doughty champion of her father's good name and American copyrights, after the death of her brother in 1971, that she became best known to the public.

Obituary published on November 19.

AFTER the war, British comics were transformed by Leonard Matthews. As an editor at the Amalgamated Press in the late 1940s and 1950s, he revitalised their comic papers, updating the tired humour and lacklustre characters. His great passion was for the adventure strip, and during the 1950s he produced a string of variety thes with top-class artwork and stories.

tions at IPC, his responsibilities broadened to include nursery comics and several educational publications.

Leonard James Matthews had always been interested in journalism as a career. One of his early forays into the profession was as editor of the house magazine for William Whitely, the Bayswater store, where he worked for a short time before joining the Amalgamated Press in May 1939 as a sub-editor on the new comic Knockout, a rival to D. C. Thomson's Dandy and Beano. Shortly after his return to the Amalgamated Press at the end of the war, having served in the RAF, he became the editor

of Knockout "I wanted to break away from the old British comic tradition of Chips and Comic

always loved adventure stories - particularly westerns and swashbuckling tales of Robin Hood and Dick Turpin and the like - and I sensed that everything that had been done in the past with the written word could now be done in pictures. So when I started editing Knockout in 1948, I concentrated on putting in adventure picture strips."

British comics would never be the same again. Out went the outmoded practice of setting blocks of text beneath the pictures and squeezing all the characters in the scene into in the following decade, as every frame in came a more treetors of juvenile publica cinematic style, with close-ups and midshots and with the scenes drawn from different angles and perspectives. The adventure picture strip had come of age. Matthews began to bring in long-established book illustrators to draw his strips, and gave them scripts

worthy of their talents. Matthews was known as the artist's editor. He had an unerring eye for the sort of artist that was right for his kind of adventure picture strip, and began to build a stable of talented artists whose work would dominate the comics under his control for several decades. His artists remained intensely loyal to him even though — or perhaps because - he was a demanding employer. One of the artists he discovered, Geoff

Campion, said that he remem-

Cuts," he once said. "I had bers confessing to him, when offered a western script, that he couldn't draw horses. Matthews told him to go away and "bloody well learn". Campion became one of the finest horse artists in comics. For many, the golden age of

the British adventure strip culminated in the publication in 1951 of the Thriller Comics Library, a small-format, 64page monthly. In the "picturepacked pages" of these comics, old heroes such as Robin Hood and the Three Musketeers rode again for a new generation of young readers.
Matthews's enthusiasm inspired his artists and scriptin any comic. Some of the very best adventures were scripted by Matthews himself.

Another of Matthews's successful adventure strip comics during the 1950s was the Sun. companion paper to Knockout and noted for its historical strips such as "The Happy Hussar", the long complete weekly adventures of Billy the Kid (transformed by Matthews into a Zorro-style masked avenger) and the flying ace Battler Britton.

In 1954, Matthews launched Jack and Jill, a new-style nursery comic. He applied the following principles: "Every story must make sense, every story must have a happy ending; no stories with a revenge motive, nothing to frighten the child." The success of Jack and Jill resulted



in the launch of two companion papers, Playhour and Harold Hare's Own Paper.

Further successful titles followed, including Buster, one of the longest-running comics of recent years, Top Spot, a weekly for late teenage boys, and Princess, planned and promoted as "a paper just like mummy's". In 1961 Matthews was appointed director of juvenile publications at IPC. which had by then taken over the Amalgamated Press. In the same year, he launched Look and Learn, which ran for more than 20 years. One of his few failures during this period was Ranger, a brave attempt at producing a boys' magazine amalgamating fact, fiction and adventure strip. Despite its quality, it lasted for

only 40 issues.



After retiring from IPC, Matthews started Martpress. producing such titles as Once Upon a Time, Disneyland, Pixie and Rupert Weekly for a variety of publishers. Matthews was at home with all types of juvenile publications

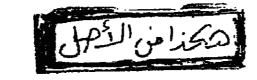
and produced a seemingly endless stream of books and annuals, comics and magazines. He was working on several new projects only two months before his death. He is survived by his wife, Barbara.

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BUSINESS

SECTION2 PAGES 51-64

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

Alert hits Johnson Fry shares

By RICHARD MILES

SHARES in Johnson Fry Holdings, the fund manager, dived by 27 per cent yesterday after the com-pany warned investors to expect a substantial loss

Rebecca Thomas, managing director, said the loss before exceptional ifems would be £2 million after the closure of the financial products division and ten redundancies. But Ms Thomas, ap-

pointed in September, said a large exceptional gain of £3.9 million from the sale of its property division ensure the firm "published a profit for the year".

In the absence of "unforeseen circumstances Johnson Fry said it would pay an unchanged final dividend of 2p on reporting its year-end results in late March. The shares closed 31.5p lower at 85p

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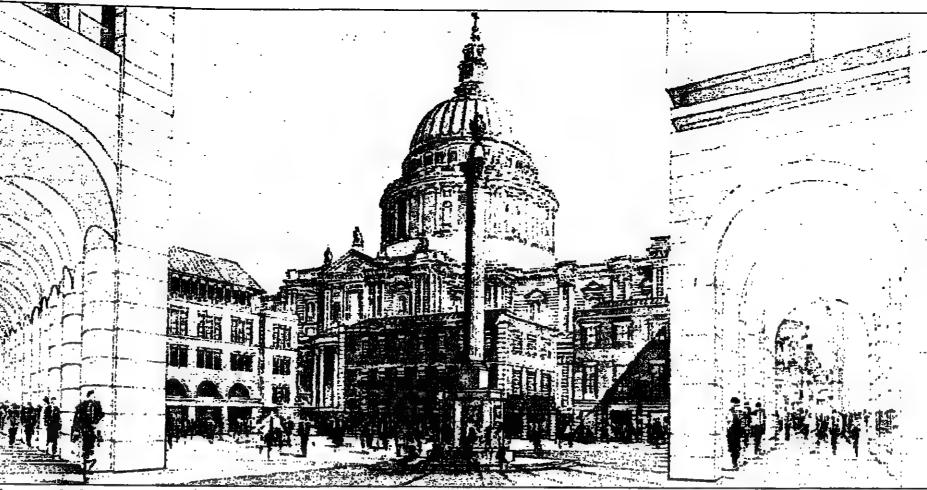
Since joining the com-pany 18 months ago, Ms Thomas has sought to turn Johnson Fry from an advisory and trading business into a fund manager fo cosed on the retail investor. In that time, funds under management have almost trebled from E330 million to £919 million.

As part of the conversion to fund manager, the in-surance and independent financial advice businesses were sold off in mid-1996, followed by the disposal of Johnson Fry Housing, its property arm. early this year.

have do this sort of thing. have to deal with the historic business of old Johnson Fry. The financial products division was highly geared to volumes of new sales."

Johnson Fry, 35 per cent owned by directors and the 150 staff, insisted yesterday that it was determined to remain independent, in spite of reports last month that it was up for

Tempus, page 31



Liberty Life sights set on FTSE listing

By Marianne Curphey, insurance correspondent

LIBERTY LIFE Association may be ready to abandon South Africa in favour of a primary sharelisting in London and membership of the FISE 100 share index.

The Johannesburg-listed company chaired by Donald Gordon, the insurance magnate, yesterday announced a radical restructuring aimed at creating an international financial services company.

Mr Gordon, 58, who with Abbey Life in 1962, said that he believed the UK and America were good bases from which to turn Liberty Life into an international financial services company. At the end of June the group had total shareholders' funds of more than £1.5 billion and total assets of £4.4 billion. It controis Capital Shopping Centres, owner of the Thurrock

and Lakeside retail complexes. Mr Gordon said he was looking for acquisitions in the

Lord Prior, a Cabinet minis-

ter in the Thatcher Govern-

ment, is due to retire in March.

Turning round GEC after years

of underperformance is regarded as one of the toughest jobs in

British industry. Sir Roger has little to prove

at Smiths, with arguably the

best long-term record in the

UK engineering sector. Pre-tax profits have grown from £25

million to £192 million since he

took over as managing director

in 1978. The value of the

company's shares has multi-

erator, while London & Con-

plied almost 20 times.

US and had considered bidding for Mercury Asset Man-UK and US."

agement in the UK, now subject to an agreed £3.1 billion offer from Merrill Lynch. "MAM would have been good for us but Merrill Lynch could afford to pay over the odds for it." He emphasised that the

restructuring proposals were still being considered and a formal decision had yet to be reached. He said that life es in the UK expensive because the UK was currently "flavour of the

Analysts said Liberty Life would be taken more seriously as a global company if it relocated to the UK. Mr Gordon said that he had no intention of leaving South Africa to live permanently in this country.

He described the South African life assurance market as "very competitive" and added: "The cost ratios there

The proposed restructuring, announced yesterday, would simplify the group's complicared management and ownership structure, he said. There are a number of partowned subsidiary business that needed streamlining.

A year ago Mr Gordon announced ambitious plans to compete with the biggest names in the pensions induslife insurance company. In a joint venture with the British Telecom Pension Scheme, Lib erty was able to set up Hermes Liberty International Pensions, which specialises in

group personal pensions.

Mr Gordon said expanding the company to make it an international player was his greatest ambition. "I would dearly love to achieve that before I stop working." he said. "I am not doing it for the money any more. I am doing it

for fun. It is great fun negotiating deals when you are not being forced into doing them." Mr Gordon described his

role as "that of an elder statesman and strategic planner". His 40 years' experience in life insurance have made him an almost legendary figure in the industry. The restructuring is intended to cut out management layers and reduce potential conflicts of interest between controlling and give Liberty Life greater access to capital markets.

The plans for Liberty Life include increasing the company's involvement in the Black Economic Empowerment project, a South African scheme set up to help companies run by black workers. Liberty Life said that the plans would need regulatory approval and their success would depend on the state of equity and financial markets

Mitsubishi has new designs on **Paternoster**

A JAPANESE property developer stepped gingerly into a British minefield yesterday with new proposals for the redevelopment of Paternoster Square, the ugly 1960s office development adjacent to St Paul's Cathedral.

Mitsubishi Estate Company is hoping that its masterplan will receive the green light from planners at the Corporation of London, permitting the demolition of the site and the erection of six new buildings designed by different archias, with a value on comp tion of about £400 million. The scheme, designed by Sir

William Whitfield, treads a narrow path, seeking to satisfy modernists and appease traditionalists, while making money for the developers. Chief among the traditionalists is the Prince of Wales, who famously condemned an earlier modernist redevelopment plan as "deeply depressing". A later neo-classical scheme favoured by the Prince proved to

Sir William's masterplan envisages the demolition of the raised piazza and walkways, lowering the site to ground level, thereby improving both views of the cathedral and pedestrian access. Sir William said that the failure of William Holford's 1960s development was the attempt to impose a single architectural concept on a sensitive site, ignoring the needs of users. By using different architects, the scheme more reflects the higgledy-piggledy character of the City before the

arrival of 1960s brutalism. The new development will comprise 750,000 sq ft of offices. The square will be flanked with shops, while vehicle access is restricted to an underground gyratory that gave Sir William the inspiration for his masterstroke: in the middle he proposes a replica of an Inigo Jones Corinthian column that once graced the portico of St Paul's. Its plinth conceals a ventilation shaft.

Commentary, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK WARKET

NORTH SEA OIL GOLD GOLD

Primark eyes Dow Jones unit

By RAYMOND SNODDY MEDIA EDITOR

PRIMARK, the information group that owns Datastream/ICV, has emerged as a potential bidder for the troubled Dow Jones Markets, the firmucial information division of Dow Jones.

The business, which is shortly expected to be formaloffered for sale, could be worth about \$500 million (£294 million).

Joe Kasputys, Primark chairman, said yesterday he would have "a very serious look" at Dow Jones Markets. Primark, whose main strength is in information on equities, would be interested because it would extend its reach, particularly into the foreign exchange markets.

Other potential purchasers could include Bloomberg and

Hurn ready to join GEC as chairman

By PAUL DURMAN terns to defence and aerospace

SIR Roger Hurn, tipped to succeed Lord Prior as chairman of

GEC next year, may be confirmed in the job on Tuesday. Sir Roger, 59, is expected to make his plans known at the annual meeting of Smiths Industries, the engineering group of which he has been chairman since 1991, having originally joined the group in 1958.

Although he has increasingly taken a diminished role at Smiths since last year's ap-pointment of Keith Butler-Wheelhouse as chief executive, Sir Roger accepts he could not remain chairman and take on the top job at GEC. Both groups have substantial businesses supplying electronic sys-

Coal industry forecasts hit **RJB** price

SHARES in RJB Mining lost (Christine Buckley writes).

Next week John Battle, the Energy Minister, will come

5 per cent of their value with more than 1.4 million changing hands after The Times disclosed gloomy government forecasts for the future of coal

under increased pressure to make a commitment to the coal industry. Paddy Tîpping, Labour MP for Sherwood, will lead a debate urging govern-ment action to stop the building of gas-fired power stations and to put money into clean-

Mr Battle and Michael Meacher, Environment Minister, will face lobbying from the industry at a meeting next week.

IBM gives £56m in options to Gerstner

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

IBM has given Lou Gerstner, its executive chairman and architect of its recovery, \$95 million (£56 million) of share options to persuade him to stay for five more years. He has already accumulated options worth a similar amount since he arrived in 1993.

The 55-year-old former investment banker will also continue to receive annual performance-related share op-

The company yesterday defended the pay package, which is unusually high even by US standards, by saying that Mr Gerstner had been the main t a meeting next week.

Commentary, page 29 driver behind the revival of the US's seventh-largest company. However, shareholders may have mixed feelings. It had been feared that IBM's share price would fall if Mr Gerstner sold his stake and

left the company. While Mr Gerstner's skills are widely acknowledged, he has recently been criticised for favouring share buybacks over acquisitions. He said yesterday that he was still looking for takeover targets.

IBM announced a largescale buyback programme during last month's stock market plunge. It was credited with kickstarting a buying spree that led to the biggest daily rise in the Dow Jones industrial average.

AWEEK IN THE CITY

t was a week in which the City's women high-flyers put on a spectacular show of force — not always by choice. Ann Iverson called it a day at Laura Ashley. while Merrill Lynch made an agreed £3.1 billion takeover bid for Mercury Asset Management (MAM), creating up to 300 instant City millionaires. British Airways unveiled plans for a low-cost, no-frills European airline, flying from Stansted. Monday saw the FTSE 100

index soar 150 points, fast

closing, again, on the mystical

5,000 barrier. Thursday saw Wall Street leap 101. The Government gave the thumbs

tip to P&O's merger with Stena Line, creating a stream-

lined cross-Channel ferry op-

A TOTA

tinental Railways confirmed that its high-speed Channel Tunnel link would run all the way to St Pancras station in North London. It had been feared that the line might fizzle out near the M25. The sudden forced departure of a chief executive is

routine enough -- except when the company is Laura Ashley, brimming with twee Englishness, and the victim is a tough-talking American who has posed in leather for Vogue. Ann Iverson, who worked wonders at Mothercare in the early Nineties proved unable to conjure up the same magic with chintz. She leaves under a cloud, but wealthier, collecting £450,000 in compenin pay and bonuses. Another feisty American,

Barbara Cassani, was named chief executive-designate of BA's new peanutclass airline, tentatively dubbed Operation Blue Sky.

The move throws down the gauntlet to other no-frills operators such as Debonair. Ryanair and Easylet — and spells good news for consumers. BA also announced a big cut in commission paid to travel agents, triggering an irate response. Merrill's punt for MAM will add to the considerable

fortune of Carol Galley, the

most powerful woman in UK

fund management, who is on

course to collect £10 million

from the deal. Similar wind-

sation on top of £2.2 million falls await her top colleagues - Hugh Stevenson and Stephen Zimmerman.

Observers were quick to question the fate of other independent City fund managers; chiefly Schroders, Perpetual and M&G. Margaret Beckett, the Pres-

ident of the Board of Trade, heaped fresh woes on Sears. owner of Selfridge's, by block-ing the proposed £365 million sale of Freemans, its mail order business, to Littlewoods. Shares in Safeway suffered their sharpest

one-day drop — falling 16 per cent to 330p on Wednesday on a warning that fierce competition, allied to supply problems, would wipe out profits growth this year. Ros Wright, director of the

Serious Fraud Office, toasted success in six out of six Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) trials, as Abdul Chiragh, a South London accountant, was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court to five-and-a-half

fraud and false accounting. Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, castigated the pensions industry over mis-selling.

years' imprisonment for

So who shares the booby prize with Ann Iverson? Enter Nicola "Superwoman" Horlick, who would have done fine had she stuck at her old job ... with Mercury Asset Management. That's the City for you.

JON ASHWORTH



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Dialog at **'advanced** stage' in talks over £33m sale

By Fraser Nelson

DIALOG Corporation, the online information company formed when Maid and Knight-Ridder Information merged, is poised to sell its document delivery and library divisions for about £33 million.

The company, now the largest player in the computerised market research field, said it was in advanced stages of talks with potential bidders and would complete an auction to the highest in the new

Together. Knight-Ridder's library and document delivery divisions have annual sales of \$37 million (£22 million). Analysts said that the level of interest in both divisions should allow Dan Wagner, the chief executive, to sell them for at least 1.5 times sales, or \$55.5 million (£33 million) — some £10 million above initial

expectations. The company said yesterday that it had completed its expected staff-cutting programme, shedding 334 jobs across its international offices, slightly above September's forecasts of 300 job losses. It has also closed about 20 of the 57 offices that came into the

enlarged group.

Mr Wagner said the company was well within the £10 million set aside for the closures, which will leave Dialog with 1,060 staff in 20 countries while moving all its databases to a mainframe computer in California.

Shares of Dialog, which were relisted at 188p last Friday, against Maid's suspension price of 215p. gained 212p to 180p



Don Carty, president of AA, left, and Robery Ayling, chief executive of BA, may yet seal their alliance

New hope for BA in **US link**

صكذا من رلاميل

BRITISH Airways has been given fresh hope that its troubled plans for an alliance with American Airlines could yet be realised (Oliver August writes). The US congressional aviation committee has

backed a compromise formu-la that would allow the alliance if it were phased in over several years along with land-ing slots at Heathrow for competitor airlines.

The alliance had been opposed by the European Commission and competitors, which had demanded more Heathrow landing slots than BA was willing to hand over. William Lipinski, a Democratic Congressman for Illinois, has written to regulators in Europe and the US to urge them to hold talks on the new compromise formula. Neither BA nor AA would comment the compromise plan yesterday.

BISINESSEDBIRIUP

Ford unions to meet over two-year offer

UNION officials at Ford car plants throughout the country are to be consulted over the next week on whether to accept a "final" pay offer worth at least 8.75 per cent over two years. The offer, tabled after two days of talks, was described as "disappointing" by the chief union perotister vesterday "disappointing" by the chief union negotiator yesterday. Tony Woodley, national officer of the Transport and General Workers Union, said the proposed deal would not redress the "drift" that Ford workers had suffered in their pay compared with other car comparing "No are disappointed with the with other car companies. We are disappointed with the offer, which we believe is at best only average compared to recent settlements," said Mr Woodley. "Ford workers deserve a better deal because of the productivity gains they have

made in recent years." Shop stewards at Ford plants across Britain will be consulted over the next week on whether the offer should be accepted. National union leaders will meet again in early December to decide their next move. Under the offer, the pay of Ford workers would increase by 4.5 per cent in year one, followed by a rise of 4.25 per cent or the rate of inflation plus 0.25 per cent, whichever is greater, in year two. Ford also offered an extra day's holiday from year two, to 25 days, and improvements on pensions.

LEHMAN BROTHERS, the Wall Street investment bank, will sell its private client businesses in London, Hong Kong and Singapore to Prudential Securities of the US for an undisclosed sum. The firm is to focus on higher-margin institutional business, including investment banking, the company said. The sale affects around 20 people in London. Lehman will retain its GLG Partners division in London, which manages assets for institutions and wealthy individttals. Its other private client businesses will not be sold.

Reflec losses mount

half were unlikely to meet expectations. Losses were £264,000 before tax, compared with a E214,000 loss previously, despite a rise in sales to £390,000 from £80,000. Losses were 3.14p a share (3.09p loss) and there is again no interim dividend. The shares, which trade on the Alternative Investment Market, peaked at 12314p earlier this year.

DCS GROUP said that it had expanded its European automotive network via the acquisition of two specialist suppliers in Germany. Switzerland and Austria. The net consideration is £2.9 million. DCS said the acquisition represented an important step towards its strategic goal of achieving a leading market position in all leading European markets for automotive systems. Robin Lodge, executive chairman, said the acquisitions are expected to enhance earnings. The shares rose 17p to 2621ap.

CHESTERFIELD PROPERTIES, whose chief executive is

Lehman sells off units

TRW in \$1bn US deal

TRW, the automotive and space technology company, has agreed to buy BDM International, which provides systems international. egration and computer services to government and commercial customers, in a deal valued at about \$1 billion (£580 million). The offer for the Virginia company is worth \$29.50 per share. TRW will launch a cash tender offer within the next five business days for BDM. It added that Carlyle Group, the investment firm, and affiliates, which own about 26 per cent of BDM, had agreed to tender their shares at the same price.

Financial services 'biased'

THE financial services industry is still failing to provide fully unbiased advice, according to a report from the European Policy Forum research institute. Insurance Regulation in the United Kingdom, whose sponsors include Guardian, Royal & Sun Alliance and PPP, calls on the new Financial Services Authority to foster an ethical approach that produces consumer-friendy products. It also says there is a need for greater disclosure about products. The report urges the FSA to deliver its promise to allow the industry to self-regulate.

Laidlaw increases bid

LAIDLAW ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, the US waste management company, has increased its hostile takeover bid for Safety-Kleen to \$2.1 billion (£1.3 billion). The offer came just hours after Safety-Kleen agreed to be bought by Philip Services of Canada and two investment partners for \$1.9 billion. The contest for Safety-Kleen comes amid consolidation in North America's waste management industry. "We are advising Safety-Kleen shareholders to sit tight," said Tom Burnett, at Merger Insight, an institutional reserve service. (Bloomberg)

SHARES in Reflec fell 21p to 3212p yesterday after the manufacturer of reflective clothing and coated products reported a rise in first-half losses and said sales in the second

DCS expands network

Chesterfield purchase

Robert Maxted, has acquired the Pallion retail park in Sunderland for £6.8 million. The park, which was developed four years ago, produces an annual rental income of £540,000, equivalent to £7.10 per sq ft. Tenants include iccland, Kwiksave, ScottishPower and Poundstretcher. Rent reviews on the park begin in September next year and Chesterfield estimates the current rental value to be £9 per sq ft.

E-mail key to Microsoft case

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

AN INTERNAL memo from a Microsoft executive sent by electronic mail forms the key plank of the US Justice De-

partment's antitrust case against the software house. Microsoft stands accused of using its existing monopoly in the personal computer software market to gain dominance illegally in the growing

market for Internet software. Janet Reno, the US Attorney General, yesterday stepped up her attack on Microsoft's bundling of its Windows 95 package with the Internet Explorer product.

A \$1 million-a-day fine could be imposed as early as next month after the filing of a 30-page charge sheet in Washington. The sheet includes the incriminating e-mail from James Allchin, a senior vice-

president. Mr Allchin wrote on December 20 last year: The current path is simply to copy everything Netscape [Microsoft's main competitor] does. My conclusion is we must leverage Windows more." He said that not bundling the two products means "losing our biggest advantage - Windows' market share".

He encouraged other execu-

integrated solution".

Previously, Microsoft had argued that it had always intended Windows and Internet Explorer to be a

single product.
The Justice Department now contends that the bundling was started this year. It said Microsoft was breaching a 1995 court-enforced agreement that narrowly restricts its software marketing. A number of computer manufac-turers have claimed Microsoft

is forcing them to install Internet Explorer along with Windows to drive out Netscape's software.

The Justice Department said that the software bundling "has nothing to do with updating Microsoft's operating system. Microsoft's Internet Explorer was developed as - and in every way continues to be - a seperate product from Microsoft's Windows 95

AA to run satellite service

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A POWERFUL consortium of British companies is joining the assault on the multibillion-pound market for in-car satellite technology (Kevin Eason

Global Telematics, a joint venture between European Telecom and Racal. yesterday announced that the AA will run its new vehicle tracking, navigation and information system with Vodafone as the mobile telephone carrier. The Carphone Warehouse, one of Britain's most successful mobile phone sales operations, is also being enlisted along with Lucas Kienzle.

Target sales are £50 million-a-year by the turn of the century, mainly achieved through after-market fitting of the sophisticated equipment to fleetowned vehicles. Discussions with leading carmakers, such as Nissan, have started for assembly line installations.

Direct Line advert halted

THE Independent Television Commission has suspended the transmission of an advertisement by Direct Line after rival insurers complained.

Broadcasters have been told not to show the advert while the ITC investigates complaints that it is misleading. The ITC said it received seven complaints accusing the telephone insurer of showing traditional insurance brokers in a damaging way. Among those

to complain was Norwich Union, which accused Direct Line of being "intentionally and damagingly mis leading in its portrayal of brokers".

John Kitson, Norwich Union marketing manager, said: "We are delight-ed with the ITC suspension and it is a real victory for the insurance broker and Norwich Union. We believe Direct Line has intentionally tried to portray brokers from the past."

Regulator warns banks

BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HOWARD DAVIES, chairman of the Financial Services Authority, the new superregulator, gave warning yesterday that economic and monetary union would push banks into far-flung markets where they have no expertise. Mr Davies told a London

conference that it was "a matter of some concern" how banks intended to compensate for the loss of their intra-EU foreign exchange business and dimin-ishing profitability in their core A number of banks have

told regulators that they plan to build up their exchange trading in Eastern European and other emerging markets. There must be serious doubts about the expertise of some of these banks in those markets, and about the extent to which there is room for new competitors in what remains a small and specialised sector," said Mr Davies.

While EMU posed little or no risk to London as an international financial centre, Mr Davies said it would accelerate consolidation in an industry already charac-

Mortgage rate fears discounted

By Clare Stewart

CONCERNS that a large ber of homeowners are likely to be hit hard by sharply higher home loan payments when their fixedrate morigage deals run out next year have been discounted by the Council of Mortgage Lenders.
There have been worries

that, after the run of rises in interest rates, mortgage payers are set for a payments shock once fixed-rate schemes end and they then start paying at a higher variable rate. Fionnuala Earley, senior

economist at CML, says in the group's newsletter that, typically, fixed-rate loans are taken out on a short-term basis, of two to five years. CML figures also show that, of the 13 per cent of mortgages that are fixed-rate loans, nearly half will mature next year. But, says the CMIL, a num-

ber of factors will cushion the impact of this rise. These include the increase in average earnings over the period of the fixed-rate loan.

The CML expects that more homeowners facing higher payments may choose to switch to another lender with more favourable rates.

Martin Currie cancels launch

By Gavin Lumsden

burgh fund manager, has pulled the launch of a new split capital investment trust after shareholders in General Consolidated, another split trust, turned it down as a rollover vehicle this week.

Martin Currie assumed the management of the £146 million General Consolidated trust (GCIT) last year after its acquisition of Moorgate Fund Managers. Its new trust, Martin Currie High Income, had artracted pledges from holders of £40 million of GCTT shares. However, a revolt by GCTT income shareholders, led by Geared Income, a rival split trust that has tabled its own offer, and Gartmore Investment Trust Management, blocked the move, raising speculation that the two had done a deal.

Geared Income, a £76 million fund, invests solely in the shares of split capital trusts. Gartmore is also seeking to

MARTIN CURRIE, the Edin- launch a new split trust to succeed the £560 million Scottish National Trust that it manages. It increased its stake to 8 per cent in General Consolidated a few weeks ago. However, Tony Reid, investment director of Broker Financial Services, which manages Geared Income, denied any deal and said the rejection by income shareholders had been overwhelming. Gartmore was unavailable for comment.

Sandy Dudgeon, director of Martin Currie, said: "Of course we are disappointed that a small number of GCIT income shareholders blocked the scheme recommended by the GCTT board." He said the hoard could still propose an alternative.

Mr Reid said the board

wanted to turn General Consolidated into a unit trust. However, he admitted that Geared Income's bid had yet to receive tax clearance from the inland Revenue.

TOURIST THE SUNDAY TIMES RATES. **FIRST AMONG EQUALS**

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Sweden Kr 12.65
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Switzerland Fr 12.55 Philes for small denomination bankingtes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different retes apply to traveller's chaques. Rates as at class of tracting vesterday.

Immaculately turned out, with a cool charm that capitivates clients, Carol Galley is a formidable force in corporate Britain How the Americans agreed to pay £3.1 billion for Mercury Asset Management,

making Galley the first woman to sit on Merrill Lynch's executive board Business Focus — The Sunday Times, tomorrow

CITY BALLET OF LONDON

Following its successful tour of its new production of 'Sleep Beauty City Ballet of London (Royal Patron HRH The Duke of York: Charity No: 1061536) is seeking sponsorship for a new programme of one-act neo-classical ballets, its education programme and its young choreographers workshop in 1998. Please reply in full confidence to: 0171 405 0044,

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THE SENIOR HARS

inspectors appointed by the Department of Trade and In-

dustry to unravel the Guinness

affair. No author likes to labour

in vain and at last their efforts are to see the light. The President

of the Board of Trade has de-

creed that the public should be able to read the results of the

inspectors' inquiries and on

Thursday they will go on sale at Her Majesty's Stationery Office

It may be that what appears will be a somewhat edited version of

the inspectors original, but it still promises to provide plenty of material for bar-room gossip around the Square Mile. For

some, it will revive old memories

of how the City used to function, for Guinness was only an exag-gerated version of what had gone before. For more recent recruits

to the City, it will introduce a cast

of characters worthy of a West End musical, perhaps a follow-up to Chicago, currently packing them in at the Adelphi.

Because of its historic nature -

the Guinness takeover of Distill-

ers was in 1986 - the only careers that it is likely to affect

are those of the two inspectors, now due their moment of fame.

But the timing of its publica-



arlier this month Jonathan Guinness published Requiem for a Family Business. His publishers proclaimed that the book would shed light "on one of the most remarkable financial scandals to face the City of London". The author, they said, would present "an insider's view of that scandal".

of the family company for 27 years, goes into some detail about his idiosyncratic contributions to board meetings, but his insight into what went on when the company, led by Ernest Saunders, decided it would take control of Distillers seems to be control of Distillers seems to be informed as much by newspaper comment as by inside

have gone astray, causing some alarm to the Swedish authorities. With delicious irony, the company is called Trustor.

But while his Requiem may not excite the masses, we are about to see publication of what

Donaldson, QC, and Ian Glen-dinning Watt were the two

As is so often the case, the book fails to live up to the blurb. Jonathan Guinness, aka Lord Moyne, a non-executive director

Sadly, Lord Moyne is not available to give the interviews that his publishers promised and which might have put some colourful flesh on the bones of his tale. He is somewhat preoccupied at the moment with trying to explain his involvement with a Scandinavian outfit whose funds

promises to be a rollicking good read on the same subject. David

→ A tale of two Cities



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

tion is an extraordinary coincidence. It comes in the week in which both Grand Metropolitan and Guinness hold the extraordinary general meetings that will ratify their merger. Shareholders will also have to vote to approve the change to the ghastly name, Diageo. Some may feel that, despite the imagery of the famous stout, the chance to shrug off a name which has become synonymous with City sharp practice should be welcomed.

Battle fighting the wrong coal battle

Tohn Battle, the Energy Minister, has made increasingly plain his irritation with Richard Budge, chief of the eponymous RJB.

When pressed on the clear crisis looming in the coal industry, the aggressively defen-sive Mr Battle has responded with remarks such as "the pres-

sure is on Mr Budge, quite trankly". The Minister has said that he cannot ask the electricity generators, with whom RJB is negotiating new contracts, "to

subsidise Mr Budge".

These may be the comments of one blunt Yorkshireman on another but they do not amount to a ministerial response. The Government is faced with

an imminent crisis that threatens the entire coal industry. Mr Battle seems interested only in focusing the debate on Mr Budge and the way that he conducts his

This is to ignore the real issues, which go far beyond one com-pany. The Labour Government has failed to deliver an energy policy despite endlessly trotting out the pledge to make energy "diverse, secure and sustain-able". In its short time in power, it has hastened the dash for gas in electricity generation, which will lead to heavy dependency on imported gas from politically

unstable countries. It has consigned coal purely to the workings of the market place where British-produced stocks have to

fight against government-sub-sidised imports from Germany. Mr Battle's department has forecast a halving of jobs in mining while critical negotiations continue. He behaves as if energy is out of his hands, dependent on the vagaries of the market and on the negotiating abilities of one man.

Yet the Government should be more than a mere spectator at the fate of an industry. Were it so inclined, it could take action to ensure a future for the coal industry and so deliver the diversity of energy it is so fond of talking about. It could halt the new building of gas-fired power stations or offer an incentive for power stations that have cleaning equipment for coal. It could invest in clean-coal technology or seek to relax its onerous environmental commitments.

If it does none of these things, we will see the once unthinkable situation of a Labour government presiding over the ultimate death of the mining industry. Even for a party that has modernised to the extent that

new Labour has, it is not a politically palatable prospect. The pressure is not only on Mr Budge; it is also on Mr Battle.

Pragmatic solution

s with house prices, everyone has a view about architecture. Mitsubishi, the Japanese property developer with the doubtful privilege of promoting the latest Paternoster Square redevelopment, is keep-ing its head down. This is wise given the torrent of abuse from people in high places that was

heaped on previous schemes. Yesterday, Mitsubishi stood behind its adviser, Schroders, and the brains behind the new proposal. Sir William Whitfield. The author of the masterplan braved torrents from the heavens as he took interested parties on a tour through the rain-stained concrete slabs of the square near St Paul's Cathedral. He was only partially protected by an um-brella held by a young lady from Mitsubishi.

It is to be hoped that this scheme draws fewer brickbats because it is exactly what is required. To the visitor, London looks a bit of a mess compared with the grand boulevards and set-pieces of Paris and the powerplay of New York towers. But in that confusion of styles and streets lies the City's charm and personality, where turning a corner can reveal a splendid view. Sir William has recognised this and produced a plan that is in essence very much a com-promise and therefore very

Instead of one architect, we have many. Purists will regret the lack of consistency, but they forget that the City of London is a land of pragmatists where a successful deal is one that works for everyone.

An inspector calls

NIKOLAI GOGOL'S play. The Government Inspector, has entertained theatre audiences around the world. But in his native Russia the jokes sound a little thin. Apparently, the average Moscow shopkeeper is visited by 19 government inspectors a year. Small wonder, says The Economist's The World in 1998, that Russia's underground economy is now worth more economy is now worth more than its official economy. That's real red tape in action.

> good". City analysts were also disappointed yesterday by

> UBS's failure to announce a

big acquisition, as market speculation had suggested. In-

stead, the bank unveiled a

FFr358 million (£38 million) takeover of French fund man-

Mathis Cabiallavetta, president of the UBS Group execu-

tive board, said in his autumn

trading statement that "the

time was not quite right for the

major acquisition which many

He said that the bank had

pared with a loss of SFr348

ager Alfi Gestion.

people expected".

Colt seeks £200m for growth in London

COLT TELECOM, the European telecoms operator that specialises in providing highand governments, is seeking to raise £200 million through an equity offering and a debt

The company said the money would be used for a potential fourfold expansion of its London operations, which currently run from Canary. Wharf to the City and the West End. It would also be used to establish new services in Berlin, Zurich, Brussels and Mi-Colt already has tions in Frankfurt.

Hamburg, Munich and Paris. The move was greeted with enthusiasm by the City, with Colt's shares jumping 132p to 598 2 p yesterday, having more than doubled in value in four months. Confidence in the company is strong even though it has still not made a profit, with last year's pre-tax losses standing at £11 million, on turnover of just £34 million. However, earlier this month

Colt reported a 144 per cent rise in sales to £55 million for the nine months to September 30. Colt's performance will be closely watched by telecoms analysis, who had their fin-

gers burnt earlier this week when shares in Ionica, Colt's

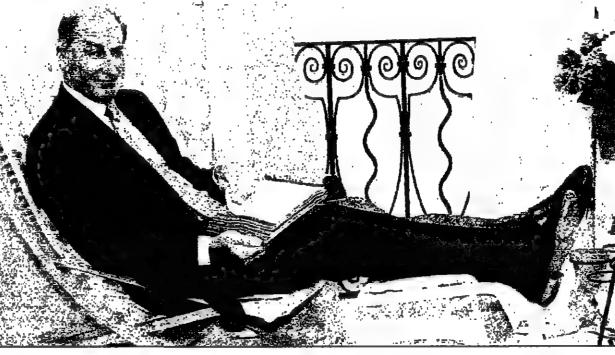
wireless rival, plunged 101p to 1562p, having floated in August at 42lp. Interest in start-up telecoms

companies will heighten even further next month with the flotation of Energis, the telecommunications arm of the National Grid, which is expected to be valued at about £1 billion. Energis will also aim its services - provided by telephone, lines slung over electricity cables - at the business market.

John Doherty, director of investor relations at Colt, said: "The technology we use enables us to offer reliability and quality of service, although we also have competitive pricing. But we still have a long way to go. At present we have 800 customers in London, and we believe there is a potential market of 3,000 to 4,000. There is a huge amount of major business focused in the City." Colt said the problems that had hit Ionica would not affect its own business.

Colt said that half of the £200 million being raised would come from the offering of 16.8 million shares at 585p each; the other half would come from a debt issue of about £100 million.

Tempus, page 31



Measuring up: Sir Peter Osborne, chairman of Osborne & Little, the wallpaper and fabrics company, is taking a cautious view of current trading, but expects a satisfactory outcome for the full year. (Fraser Nelson writes). Shares fell 422p

THE Energy Group is only

weeks away from hearing its

fate after a Monopolies and

Mergers Commission investi-gation into the £3.65 billion bid

for the company by Pacificorp yesterday went to the Depart-

A decision from Margaret

Beckett, President of the Board

of Trade, is not expected until

January. The announcement

comes at a similar time to the

DTI's publication of its Green

ment of Trade and Industry.

Bid for Energy

Group referred

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

Paper on utility regulation.

One of the issues which led to

the surprise referral of the bid

was the concern that The Energy Group could be hard-

er to regulate if it were owned by a large US parent.
This affected none of the

previous bids for electricity

companies made by US busi-

nesses under the previous

Conservative Government but

in Opposition Mrs Beckett

had called for referrals.

to 5972p, a nine-month low, as the company said that a slow start to the year had coupled with currency problems to make for an uncertain second half. The company returned a flat pre-tax profit of £2.2 million (£2.01 million) for the six

months to September 30 after launching four Nina Campbell ranges and the first Stewart Furnishings range under its stewardship. Earnings were 22.1p (20.2p) a share, and a dividend of 9p (8p) is due to

UBS loses £125m on derivatives

By Richard Miles, banking correspondent

UNION Bank of Switzerland has admitted to a SFr200 million (£125 million) loss in its equities derivatives business during the first half of the

UBS said the deficit had been incurred partly through a miscalculation in the pricing of options, and partly through changed valuations after an amendment to corporation taxes in Britain.

As a result of the losses, Ramy Goldstein, the Londonbased head of global equities derivatives trading, left the company this week, along with three executives from the New York operation.

studied a range of expansion opportunities before rejecting But a UBS executive empha-UBS, which owns PDFM, the British fund manager. sised that the trading deficit at forecast that the group would its derivatives arms was "a return to the black this year at one-off event" with no further about SFr3.2 billion. com-

repercussions. He insisted that UBS's risk and management controls remained "very **NEW MORTGAGES & REMORTGAGES**

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Reas effective 3.11.97. The interest rate charged on the Five New Hand Mongage wit be 5.39% (2.25) APRI until 1.2.200. APR is variable. Example: An interest Only mongage of 050,000 over a 25 year term (300 monthly payments) completing on 1.12.1997, secured against a property being purchased for 197,000. 300 monthly payments in completing on 1.21.1997, secured against a property being purchased for 197,000. 300 monthly payments need to 18.25.80. Total amount payable 2134,308.21. Measurem loan to value for Five Neet Fixed Rate products are available. This establishe to 1976. Selection costs of 1974.86 England and Welsel, Supercover Special Insurance Premium 1343.37 (District 1). If the montage is repeal in his or in part within source velocity of 1976. Selections costs of 1974.86 England and Welsel, Supercover Special Insurance Premium 1343.37 (District 1). If the montage is repeal in his or in part within source velocity of 1976. If the montage is repeal in the first our velocity of 1976. The first our velocity of 1976 of the amount repeal of the term and 1976 of the amount report of the first our velocity of the emparts reported in the first our velocity of the emparts reported in the 1976 of the amount where Supercover Special buildings and contents incurrence in source is building and contents incurrence in source in 1976 of 19 YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Chancellor's 'golden scenario' aims at noble entry into EMU

oday is a red-letter day. For the first time we have a Green Paper setting out a blueprint for the development of our tax system. It will finally take our economy from its ignoble exit, under the last Government, from the ERM on Black Wednesday (later revised to White) to my golden scenario of EMU entry.

I have a number of tax proposals to

announce. As pledged in our General Election manifesto, I intend to introduce greater fairness to our tax system. I have three measures to announce today: A new starting rate of income tax at 10 per cent for the first £2,000 of taxable income, which will benefit all taxpayers. Changes to inheritance tax and the

taxation of trusts to ensure that each generation is responsible for its own wealth-creation. □ A new general anti-avoidance measure. While tax avoidance is not illegal, it costs the Exchequer many millions of pounds each year. From now on, the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise will have powers to void any arrangement they decide is unacceptable. I recognise that some commentators have suggested this is contrary to natural

much power in the hands of the Civil Since this view has mainly been capressed by accountants and solicitors who are responsible for the tax avoidance, I have ignored their comments on

justice and the rule of law, and puts 100

I also want to reduce people's dependency on the State for pension provision. It has been scurrilously suggested that the £3.5 billion tax increases that I imposed on the pension funds in my first Bodget will affect tomorrow's pensioners. But we need to do more and I have two proposals.

On Tuesday, Gordon Brown will deliver the

first ever pre-Budget report. Peter Wyman,

head of tax at Coopers & Lybrand,

has been reading the Chancellor's thoughts



Brown: "greater taxation fairness"

☐ I intend to introduce a new Individual Savings Account, thus honouring yet another of our manifesto commitments. Tax relief will be given on investment into specially designated investment accounts, which will be sold through the National Lottery operator to provide a nationwide network of easily accessible

investment points. Relief will be given at the new starting

rate of tax for investment of up to £2,000 each year for every adult whether or not they are taxpayers. It will be paid for by the phasing out of Peps and Tessas over the next five years. It will revolutionise the saving habits of the country.

☐ I intend to halve the rate of capital gains tax for assets that have been held for more than ten years. The cost of this valuable measure will be met by an increase from 40 per cent to 55 per cent for gains on assets that have been held for less than three years.

The 55 per cent rate will also apply to gains that result from land sold for development, regardless of how long that land has been owned.

Finally, I come to business taxation. In my first Budget I announced a phasingout of foreign income dividends to bring to an end an unacceptable abuse of the tax system. However, since that Budget unscrupu-

lous businesses have further exploited the system. Accordingly, more drastic action is now needed. I have therefore determined to end the imputation system of corporation tax. In future, companies will no longer be required to account for ACT on their dividends.

A system of payment in advance for corporation tax will be introduced to even out the cashflow variance that would otherwise arise. Since there will no longer be ACT, it follows that shareholders will no longer receive a tax credit in respect of dividend receipts.

They therefore will quite properly be liable to income tax at the normal rates. These measures will meet the cost of the new 10 per cent starting rate of income tax in full. At the same time, relief for past, unutilised ACT will no longer be permitted, producing a one-off saving for the Treasury of £7 billion.

year, is a day that will always be etched on Sir

Rocco Forte's memory. The hotelier had spent more than four months

defending his family business from

an unwelcome £3.8 billion bid by

Granada. The outcome was on a knife-edge. Sir Rocco had been given little chance of saving Forte but had

managed to convince many City cynics that he could revitalise the

business. But one investor was key:

Mercury Asset Management. It held

After a busy weekend Sir Rocco arrived at his office in Holborn to be

told that Carol Galley and Stephen Zimmerman were on their way to see

him. Sir Rocco thought that a visit from the duo — who had built MAM

from a small and unloved operation

within SG Warburg, the merchant bank, to arguably the most powerful fund manager in the City — could only be good news. He was wrong.

"They came in person to tell Sir Rocco

their decision." remembers his sister, and fellow Forte board director. Olga

Polizzi. "That was the cruellest thing."

But in the minds of Galley and Zimmerman this was not cruelty. It

was courtesy. They had turned up to explain to Sir Rocco why they were selling: that, despite his hard work,

accepting Granada's bid was merely

in line with the investment philosophy that they had followed for more

than a quarter of a century. This phil-

osophy delivered London Weekend

14.4 per cent of Forte's shares.

Perfect practitioners of the art of value management

years previously, leading to accusa-tions of lack of loyalty by Sir Christo-pher Bland, then LWT's chairman, now Chairman of the BBC. This philosophy had revolutionised the City, given the duo seven-figure salaries and bonus packages and would ultimately persuade Merrill Lynch to pay £3.1 billion for MAM.

The bespectacled, punctilious Galley and thin, immaculately dressed Zimmerman started at MAM on the same day in 1971. To be accurate, they actually started at Warburg, as the fund management operation was not separated from the merchant bank at the time. Both were graduate trainees. The 22-year-old Zimmerman had hoped to work in corporate finance but found himself in the less glamorous area of fund management. Galley, famously, started in the library, but former colleagues say this was a temporary posting and it was not long before she joined Zimmerman under the wing of Leonard Licht, the controversial fund manager who created the MAM philosophy.

Under Licht, MAM took aggress-ive stakes in companies, much higher than would be dictated by the tradi-



CV: CAROL GALLEY STEPHEN ZIMMERMAN

Carol Galley: born 1948; Gosforth Grammar, Newcastle, and Leicester University: 1971 SG Warburg: 1981 MAM director: Warburg: 1981 MAM director; 1987 joint deputy chairman; Stephen Zimmerman; born 1949: Clifton College, Bristol, and City of London College; 1971 SG Warburg; 1981 MAM direc-tor; 1987 vice-chairman.

ings, MAM used principles described as "value management". This involves detailed analysis of a company to work out what it should be worth, buying a substantial stake and en-

hard to deliver this worth. Galley and Zimmerman were the perfect practi-. tioners of the technique. They were highly intelligent, hard-working and came from outside the City establishment of public school and Oxbridge. "They were dedicated and focused," remembers Licht, who left MAM five years ago, claiming it was getting too big. They surrounded themselves with similar people, such as Nicola Horlick and Peter Young, who both joined Morgan Grenfell with unhappy consequences. However, the group

always had a City insider as chair-

man and frontman - first Peter

Stormonth Darling and then Hugh

Stevenson, a Warburg corporate financier said to have "gone native" when he joined MAM. Even now, those who know Galley and Zimmerman say they largely live for their work. Galley may have a cottage in France and her box at the opera, Zimmerman may have his season ticket at Arsenal but MAM dominates their lives, a facet which may appeal to their new American colleagues, as will their fierce loyalty

to the company. Horlick, who joined

MAM in the early 1980s, leaving in

dedication to the company philosophy, constantly pointing out to subor-dinates that certain ways of working were "not the Warburg style".

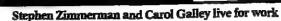
Galley has promoted the idea of

breaking up the massive amount of money that MAM manages into bitesized chunks in an attempt to allow the group to grow without losing the spectacular performance that was behind its growth in the first place. But many doubt whether this can

continue. The recent performance of the firm's largest pension fund prod-uct -- the MFS equities and property fund - has plummeted from 20th out of 70 in 1994, to 47th in 1995 and 67th last year. Other funds are said to have performed better, but MAM does not publish the figures. "Trustees have told us they [MAM] are not communicating well, saying their record stands for itself," says a rival. "This could be interpreted as arrogance."

Another says that the sheer size of the combined Merrill Lynch/MAM business - with £266 billion of assets will mean it has to be more conservative. Even MAM admits that expanding the business further in the UK is a near-impossible task and longingly eyes Europe for further growth. "With a fund that big, the only way to recreate the old MAM performance is to buy 20 per cent of Shell or Unilever and frighten the management," laughs a former colleague. "I don't think even Carol and Stephen would want to do that."







Hat fits: Kenneth Clarke arrives for an F&C board meeting

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

Ken Clarke plc strides Freudian flip on to business stage

The former Chancellor shows all the enthusiasm of a new boy in his

landslide, he can now truly indulge his private passions. There is Europe, of course. The Conservative whips were never hugely successful in silencing him on the subject. Nowadays, he talks about little else and has the satisfaction of being paid for airing the views that so often caused apoplexy among his Cabinet colleagues. Earlier this month, he gave eight speeches in a week, several on

the single currency.
But the former Chancellor has come out of the closet in far less predictable ways. Once his sartorial fame rested on his soft brown shoes. Now there's that hat. Mr Clarke insists that this jaunty addition to his wardrobe, a trilby, has nothing to do colleagues in company

THE TIMES

corporate role, says Janet Bush role as standard-bearer of his ways had a penchant for headparty's pro-European wing and gear, but never wore hats in as the new chairman of the public while he was a minister Tory Reform Group keeps him (except at football matches) well occupied. But he now has to squeeze into a bursting diary

because Tory style-gurus disap-proved. Part of the delight of being a backbencher is that he his considerable new portfolio of corporate posts. Ken Clarke plc, the new enfant terrible of British busican now be completely indifferent to his public image. "It's all me now," he says, gleefully. He ness, is headquartered in prime is even contemplating growing "an Ernest Hemingway type of beard", but only when he is a office space at No 1 Parliament Street. It may not be in the House of Commons or the reasury, but the windows of Mr Clarke certainly looks his third-floor office have closefitter and more relaxed than he up views of both. One wonders did at the Treasury in the dogwhether Gordon Brown ever He says that he is less tired, but gazing at his old command post

not noticeably less busy. His

across the street just a little enviously. Mr Clarke has taken on four private sector jobs since the election. He has been appointed non-executive director of Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust and chairman of UniChem, the chemist that on Thursday announced a £278 million merger with Alliance Sante of France to create the second-largest player in Eu-

rope's drugs market. He is to act as adviser to Daiwa Europe, part of the Japanese securities house, and next year he becomes nonexecutive deputy chairman of British American Tobacco, once BAT's financial services business has completed its merger with Zurich Life, the

Swiss Insurer. It has been estimated that once he formally goes on the BAT payroll, probably in the summer, Mr Clarke will be earning something in excess of £200,000 a year. He is not embarrassed in the least by such riches after 18 years as a relatively lowly paid Member of Parliament. He has clearly enjoyed the process of testing his market value,

"I found myself for the first time in my life using my negotiating skills on my own behalf, on how much I was going to be paid." Did he find this easy? "I got into it, yes!" he are the particular to the particular than the particular th guffawed. The nation's teachers and nurses must be breathing a sigh of relief that his victims across the negotiating table this time are the bosses, not the workers.

in the summer, lunched for old times' sake by a group of economics editors, Mr Clarke was clearly being bombarded by offers from the private sector. If he had not been committed to politics, he says that he would have had the chance of even bigger jobs than the ones he has now chosen. He has turned down dozens of offers from publishing houses to write his memoirs because from Westminster for many

r Clarke says that what he wants, (what he really, really wants, to coin a phrase that he employed to spice up a preelection speech), is to help to run a business, not just lend his name to the company notepaper. His challenge now is to find enough time to play a genuine role in each of the communies which with he has involved himself along with a busy political life. He admits to all the enthusiasm of a new boy in his corporate affairs. But are likely to enjoy.

what do these companies think they are getting? It is a question he asked each one. "They appear to want my judgment, my experience of macroeco-nomic policy and the contribu-tion I can make in discussions on furthering their business in on furthering their business in various ways. I hope they have taken on board my capacity for decision-making and my capacity for expressing my opin-

ions," he says.
"I think in the case of the non-executive directorships, they have all encouraged me to be as forthright and independent as I have always tried to be." In other words, he acknowledges being paid to be himself.

What he has seen so far of the way business works seems to suit his temperament. He says: "I think the rule of politics is that you should get your decisions right and then you should seek to present your decisions in the best possible way. That is undoubtedly the order in which business does it. In politics unfortunately, people will allow the presentation to completely obscure the merits of the decision. We have had some startling examples recently under the present Government."

udding company di-rector he may be, but Mr Clarke remains steeped in politics. Any excuse for a sideswipe at his political enemies and he seizes it with gusto. His criticism of Labour's handling of the Formula One affair is quite muted, presumably because he is, himself, about to take the shilling from the tobacco industry, but he is rather more trenchant about his Conservative Eurosceptic colleagues. He argues that Tony Blair should have gone for an early referendum on the single cur-rency because he would have had a good chance of winning. Why? Because all the people the public like would have been in favour and all the rest would have been against, he

says with typical bluntness. Mr Clarke admits that he is a "political junkie". If he isn't devouring political biography and autobiography, he might diversify into a spot of political history. There is little more time now for the Chancellor's famous hobbies than there was in office. His recent spot of DJ-ing for a jazz programme was widely reported but was an isolated instance of extracurricular fun. He gets the odd day bird-watching, the most recent being a day in the mountains of Tenerife after a speech to a travel agents' convention. And he has indulged in some column writing for national newspapers. The main difficulty was meeting deadlines and finding something new to say. He professes to have a new respect for journalists.

Mr Clarke had thought that life outside the ministerial mainstream would allow him the time and freedom to hit the town with his wife, Gillian. They have talked about wanting to go to the theatre, but they haven't. Jazz clubs seem to be out too. The reason is simple. He has, in jargon that would go down well in the boardrooms he now inhabits, a "rather high recognition factor". Drunks ask if they can join him for the evening. They want to buy him a round. Perhaps he should be grateful. Free beer from the public is surely not a perk many former Tory ministers

hopers" was, I believe, the phrase used in Absolutely Fabulous to sum up the Freuds. The descendants of the founder of modern paychology have found fame in even more distinguished are-nas — one a disc jockey, the odd novel knocked out, a public relations man, even an outcrop in the City — hi, David. Now one has found a niche at the most epochal project of the late 20th century, the Millennium Dome.

Matthew Freud, the public relations one, of course, is joining Sam Chisholm, former chief executive of BSkyB, his sidekick David Chance and Michael Grade, on the executive committee. Freud was signed up by Chisholm. "He is a huge force of energy and he understands the youth mar-ket," he says. We shall see.

City Spice?

EMI has a new Spice Girl The label has signed up gor-geous, leggy Kathleen O'Donovan, advocate of Giri Power in the City and finance director of BTR, as a non-exec-

utive director. I am well aware that O'Donovan hates being deemed worthy of comparison to that frolicsome fivesome of the stage and that she will doubtless find this item deeply offensive. But then I doubt she ever reads anything quite as trivial as a diary column.



Kathleen O'Donovan: Spicing up the City

Humbug

A MAN after my own heart, Kalle Lasn has been waging a five-year campaign against Christmas, and more specifically the lemming-like instinct that drives people to the shops be-fore it. He is an American advertising man who has been trying to start a national Buy Nothing Day every year on the Friday after Thanksgiving, deemed in the States for some reason the formal start of the Christmas shopping frenzy. Lash has created a 30-second commercial featuring an ani-mated pig reminding his fellow citizens of how much they con-sume by comparison with less prosperous nations. Worthy but doomed: the three big American television networks refused to screen it, admitting that it went against their business interests. CBS even accused him of being "in opposition to the current economic policy in the US."

Floored

SO JUST who was the distinguished lecturer of economics at a British university who rang up the Stock Exchange's tele-phone helpline the other day and requested permission to show a gaggle of students around? "I like to keep my un-dergraduates up to date with what is happening in the City. Is it possible for us to come



down and see your trading floor?" he asked. Alas, it closed a decade ago.

● A VERY bad day yesterday for Charles Fry, chief executive of Johnson Fry, who was forced to issue a humiliating loss warning. Not quite as humili-ating, though, as an event a few years back in his career. Fry is fourth-class degree, though he does not boast of it. His brother Jonathan, chief executive of Burmah Castrol, spilled the beans to a colleague of mine while back. I had no idea such a thing existed. A fail is a fail through lack of ability. A fourth is when you are deemed to have the ability but have been too idle to use it.

Doing time

MAX DOLDING, highly rated leisure analyst at James Capel, was at the High Court this week giving evidence in the Queens Moat Houses legal action, and he does not sound like he enjoyed the experience. Cross-examination by John Bairstow, the former chairman whom Queens Moal's current management accuses of mis-leading the market using analysts as fall guys, was about notes taken by Dolding at meetings with the company in the 1980s, and Dolding admitted he might be tempted to throw such notes away in the future. Bairstow asked if he had

been a leisure analyst for 33 years. "About 22. It seems like 33," says a dejected Dolding. adding: "I have actually been in this court for 33 years, it seems." So why did he attend? "Because I was subpoenaed to

Soap dish

IN what I hope will not become a trend, DX Communications, the mobile telephone retailer, has launched the official DX Coronation Street Mobile Phone. Purchasers will receive text messages carrying the larest about the Street. Alternatively there is a weekly recorded message with the latest "news". Just the thing for those unfortunate soap opera addicts who long ago lost touch with reality.

MARTIN WALLER



Christmas CDs-£1.98 each

TODAY'S CD: Highlights from Handel's Messiah FREE when you buy the set

This week The Times offers readers a set of exclusive Christmas CDs for only £1.98 each (£2.98 in Eire & EC) including p&p.

There are five CDs in the set and if you buy all five, you are given today's disc. highlights from Handel's Messiah, FREE. The Handel compilation is performed by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Scottish Philharmonic Singers which lasts more than 53 mins.

With 75 tracks adding up to almost five hours of music, the six CDs provide the perfect background music for your seasonal celebrations.

To receive your CDs before Christmas, post your order to arrive by Friday, December 5. The offer closes on December 31, 1997.

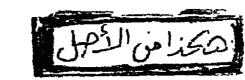


TRACK LISTING:

Overture (Sinfony); Comfort Ye My People (Recit); Evry Valley Shall Be Exalted (Air): And the Glory of the Lord (Chorus): For Unto Us a Child is Born (Chorus): There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Fields (Recit); And Lo! The Angel of the Lord (Acc Recit): And the Angel Said Unto Them (Recit): And Suddenly There Was With the Angel (Recit): He Was Despised and Rejected (Air); Hallelujah (Chorus): I Know That My Redeemer Liveth (Air); Behold, I Tell You a Mystery (Acc Recit); The Trumpet Shall Sound (Air); Worthy is the Lamb that Was Slain (Chorus)

CHANGING TIMES

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Easy Christmas Carols	XMAS605	21.96		\Box	The Times Christmas Collection, Newcastle up
All 5 CDs PLUS FREE CD - Handel's Messiah Highlights	XSET006	29.90			Tyne X, NE35 2GW Credit Card Payment Card number:
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OVEMBER 22 1997

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MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer

Street the given money to the street given m The Construction of the Co

Mr. Black of the later with the stalking the al might be stalking the obile phone operator. By the close of business last ght a total of 8.36 million

ares had changed hands as e price rose 8p to a new peak 380p, where the company rries a price tag of £11.6 llion. In fact, there has been avy turnover in the shares week amid suggestions that bid is being lined up. peculators take the view ere is no smoke without fire. merican' Telephone & Teleranh, the US telecoms group, intinues to be tipped as a otential suitor.

This comes just days after odafone revealed bumper rofits and announced a new ries of price cuts designed to ike the mobile telecom price ar to its rivals.

Share prices generally were when uoyed by another steady and and erformance by financial marhilling ets overnight in the Far East nd the continued strength of ne Dow Jones industrial averge in New York.
The rise of the FTSE 100

udex this week has been xciting the chartists, who ave seen it claw back much of s recent losses, having reached the 4,950 level. Last right it closed at its best of the lay with a rise of 77.4 at .985.8 in thin trading that aw just 683 million shares hange hands. This stretches e gain on the week to 244 Vints, or 5 per cent.

EMI Group raced up lip to 15p ahead of half-year results in Tuesday, which are expectd to show a sharp decline in pre-tax profits from £112.5 million to £71 million. The ipice Girls' latest album has seen given a poor reception in he US and their first film spiceWorld has been panned by the critics.

The breakdown in bid talks it Allied Colloids after little nore than 24 hours was greeted with dismay by the narket, as the price dropped 1312p to 126p.

failed to table terms and ther had withdrawn abruptly from the alks. To all intents and purposes that appeared to be the end of the matter. Strange, then, that some buyers were prepared to pay a substantial premium to the ruling market price. Three lines of stock totalling 200,000 shares went through on the ticker at 130p,



Three of the Spice Girls, the stars of EMI, up 11p

as the ruling price stood at

115p. Safeway shed a further 9p at 319p, stretching the loss on the week to \$1'20, as brokers continued to reflect on this week's profits warning accompanying the interim results. Nikko, the Japanese securities house, has slashed its profits forecast for the full year from £450 million to £425 million.

SmithKline Beecham continued to benefit from JP Morgan's decision to reiterate

its ferry operations with those Ladbroke ended the week on a firm note rising 4p to 293p after giving a presentation to brokers and fund managers about its hotel division. The group was upbeat about prospects and also gave an update about its commercial alliance with Hilton Hotels Corporation in the US announced earlier this year.

its "buy" recommendation overnight in New York with a rise of 17p at 592p. US support was also directed at other British drug companies, with Zeneca jumping 48p to £18.03 and Glazo Wellcome 39p higher at £13.56 in response to the news that the EU had approved Combivir, its anti-HIV treatment.

Standard Chartered jumped another 36p to 728p, bringing the rise during the of Stena. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, is cautious about prospects. It is worried about the proposed price capping and loss of duty-free status on the ferries.

past two days to 85p. Brokers

on a visit to the group's operations in the Far East are

sending back positive com-

ments on what they have seen.

Nick Dove, of SBC Warburg Dillon Read, has set a 12-

month target price of 820p a

share. HSBC also rose 67p to

£15.67 in sympathy.
P&O continued to lose

ground with a fall of 14p at

656p, despite being given the

go-ahead this week to merge

Flare Group continued to reel from this week's profits warning with a fall of 12¹²p at 50p. It stretches the loss on the week to 4412p. The group blames the problems of the "tiger" economies, which have impacted on its business. A

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profits warning also left Johnson Fry down 31'2p at 85p. The financial services group says full-year profits will fall significantly below" market expectations, resulting in a substantial loss. The group has promised shareholders the dividend will be pegged at

2p. The group blames poor sales and margins. Fresh concerns about future prospects left RJB Mining 12p lower at 150p. Reports claim that one of its biggest customers, PowerGen, has been putting pressure on the group to cut its prices. It has been complaining that its coal is too expensive and may be forced to look elsewhere for

Osborne & Little dropped 4212p to 59712p after warning about a slowdown in retailing activity during the second half. A similiar warning, which accompanied interim figures, saw Reflec touch 25p before reducing the deficit to

17p at 361 ap. It was the first day of dealings on the AIM for Maelor after a placing at 88p. The price opened at 10212p before closing at 10312p, a premium of 1512p. CRC Group also made its debut on AIM after a placing at 90p. The price opened at 10212p before closing at its best of the day with a rise of 1812p at 10812p. □ GILT-EDGED: Bond prices edged lower in thin trading as profit-takers took advantage of the useful gains

achieved earlier in the week. Dealers said London moved lower in line with other European bond markets. The absence of fresh economic news also deterred investors from opening fresh positions.

In the futures pit, the De-cember series of the long gilt finished seven ticks lower at £1181116 in modest turnover that saw just 65,000 contracts completed. Among conven-tional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 fell £14 to £11814, while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was £116 easier at £100,1516. NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks were mixed at midday, average gaining on fewer con-cerns over Asia's financial woes. Double-witching - the expiration of stock index futures and options - also caused some choppiness. By midday the Dow was 7,858.94, ahead by 32.33. ☐ Because of technical difficulties options on this page

are yesterday's.

New York (midday):

MAJOR INDICES

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MAJOR CHANGES

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Ramoo Egy 770p (-10p) Closing Prices Page 26 LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

TEMPUS

Over a barrel

Smiths can continue to play

the margin improvement

game. At 24 per cent, the

return on sales in medical

systems is close to the ceiling,

and the group has conceded

a fall by moving more heavi-

ly into distribution in Japan.

in perspective. The prospects

These fears should be kept

SHOULD the market apply a discount to oil companies that invest in politically unstable countries? Enterprise Oil believes it should. Its chief executive last week questioned why the market failed to factor environmental and political risks into the equation. Anyone taking his speech to heart might have concluded that Enterprise Oil was a buy, given the company's focus on "safe" Britain, Norway, Italy and the US. Unfortunately, he spoiled his argument with a warning about production delays and

Enterprise stock suffered a pasting.

But the issue is worth debating. While Enterprise fell, its sister company, Lasmo, has been enjoying a share price boost and the latter is heavily invested in "unsafe" countries: Algeria, Libya and Indonesia. Lasmo is quick to point out that its operations in politically volatile countries have enjoyed a much greater level of

stability than in Britain where democratic government ensures that the tax regime is in constant flux (and may be about to change again). Indeed, the burden of appeasing the public seems to be Enterprise's problem in Italy where Agip, its partner, is attempting to secure permits from local governments in the impoverished south of the country.

Political risk may be more a question of perception than actuality and that leaves an integrated company such as Shell at more risk than a pure oil producer such as Lasmo with no link to outraged consumers. What does move share prices is the rate of growth. If Lasmo has had a good run, it is due to a run of drilling successes. Lasmo and Enterprise are now almost level-pegging in valuation terms but they are both cheaper than their US rivals

orders stretching some years

into the future. And Smiths

has yet to reveal the full

benefits of the recent

Grasehy acquisition — said to be the first to carry the

Butler-Wheelhouse stamp.

Graseby was both a public

company, and Smiths' first

defence deal for a decade. At

Smiths Ind

SHARES in Smiths Industries have fallen by almost 20 per cent since it reported its latest set of good results last month. This looks excessive, even allowing for the production disarray at Boeing, an important customer for Smiths' avionics business. So far, at least, Smiths is continuing to deliver its products on time.

The length and consistency of the company's track record has given the aerospace and medical devices group a premium rating that makes it vulnerable in a nervous stock market.

Sir Roger Hurn's gradual handover of the chief executive's job to Keith Butler-Wheelhouse, previously unknown in the City, gives investors another reason to

It is highly unlikely that

for the aerospace business 7944p the shares look good value for Smiths' fans. remain sound, with military FLYING TOO LOW FTSE all-shan

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Johnson Fry

WHERE is Johnson Fry going? The company has been search of an identity ever since the Government pulled the rug from under its core business in 1993: selling Expansion Schemes to private investors. in the intervening years. Johnson Fry has dabbled in several businesses, but with-

out much success. Now the firm is to make a go of fund management, or at least that is the line peddled by its new managing director Rebecca Thomas. She has dismantled and sold off the advice and insurance arms, as well as its property busiclosed the financial products division, leaving only a skimpy portfolio of unit and investment trusts.

The rationale for switching to fund management is clear: the business provides steady revenues and is free from the volatility of broking, and the dependence on high volumes

that comes with trading in financial products such as bond-lined fixed-rate investments. According to Ms Thomas, a one-off cost of £2 million is simply the cost of the new suit. Funds under management

have almost trebled to £919 million since Ms Thomas joined the company 18 months ago. But investors have no means by which to judge the Johnson Fry funds. Its UK growth and income unit trusts may both be top quartile in the performance tables, but a one-year trackrecord has little credibility. Investors should take a hint from yesterday's 27 per cent fall in the shares and sell.

Colt Telecom

AFTER the Ionica débacle earlier this week, the City's enthusiasm for another telecoms business is worrying. The Colt share price bears every resemblance to racing towards the edge of a

from 271's to just under 600p. However Colt is not a mirror image of Ionica. For a start, it actually runs a very successful network in London. Businesses and government departments seem to be willing to fork out extra cash for high customer service and good line quality. The idea is also working in Paris, with the rest of Western Europe looking just as keen. But large question marks still hang over the business. Last

cliff, having doubled in value

over the past four months

year it made £11 million pretax losses: it is moving very fast, almost too fast to allow scrutiny; and it has still not delivered anything to sharement. There is very little independent analysis of its value, which calls into question its current share price. which appears to have been plucked out of thin air. Perhaps a great company, but a shame about the hype.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

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NEWS

Heseltine attack deepens Tory crisis

■ Michael Heseltine launched another attack on William Hague, plunging the Tory party into even deeper crisis after its humiliating defeat in the Winchester by-election.

The former Deputy Prime Minister reopened Tory divisions over Europe by giving his full backing to Peter Temple-Morris, the pro-European MP, who resigned from the Conservatives yesterday after having the party whip withdrawn Page 1

Child sex police raid two public schools

Two leading public schools were raided by detectives in a national police operation against a suspected child pornography ring, Sedbergh School in Cumbria and Durham School were among 15 addresses visited in dawn raids.......Page 1

Case dropped

A man accused of hacking into US Air Force computers, causing £300,000 of damage, walked free from court after the case was dropped

Disabled protest Campaigners for the disabled reacted strongly to plans to cut bene-

fits for the 6.5 million disabled people in Britain Page 2 Father's fears An army officer whose son died in

a military training accident had asked him to leave the Army because his unit was becoming a "leaderless rabble"..... Page 4 Lawyer guilty

Penelope Schofield, a Crown Prosecution Service solicitor, was found guilty of perverting the course of justice...... Page 5

Green tide of sushi

trish farmers may be enticed into growing seaweed for sushi bars in Tokyo and London Page 10

Dome delights

The "fun and fascination" of the Millennium Dome awaiting the nation are detailed in the first official brochure.....

Publisher sued

The publisher of an American how-to paperback for would-be contract killers is being sued for aiding a murdererPage 15

EU jobs accord

The 15 states of the European Union embraced a modest package of measures to tackle unemployment Page 16

Llb Dem triumph

The Liberal Democrats celebrated a stunning win in the rerun contest at WinchesterPage 17

'Tricky' lover

The Serbian interpreter for whom an RAF officer allegedly murdered his wife was a "tricky and promiscuous" young woman, a court was

Defiant smokers fly the fag for Britain

■ The problem: the European pro-smoking lobby is holding its annual conference in Amsterdam this weekend but there are no flights from London which allow smoking. The solution: they hired their own plane and smoked for Britain



Stamps depicting British animals and plants threatened with extinction were unveiled yesterday by the Royal Mail. They go on sale in January

NEWS FEATURES

Royal values: The point about the Queen is that there might be minor changes of style, but her core values do not change.......... Pages 8, 9

Freak show: Women from a remote Burmese hill tribe who are renowned for their long necks are being used as exhibits in a human zoo in Thailand... Page 6

Valerie Grove: Sally Potter's new film is all her own work: she wrote it, directed it, stars in it in three languages; she dances, sings, and wrote the original music for it. (Beat that, Woody Allen.).. Page 21

COLUMNS

Old faces, new times: Winchester and Beckenham are melancholy warnings of the dangers of sticking to the ... Page 23 pest.

The school run: State schools too must tackle the traffic. Safety at school is paramount. But so is getting there safely, healthily and on time. .. Page 23

LETTERS

EMU; school league tables: mystery of the monarchy: election results; early retirement: Luxor massacre: bicy-.. Page 23 cie travei ...

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkine: Tony Blair is aiready comparing himself to Disraeli in his dealings with his QueenPage 22

Simon Bernes: There is no doubt about the hero of the week: the schoolboy who ran away to Barbados. He swapped exams and the English November for a dream of paradise.

OBITUARIES

Robert Simpson, composer; the Right Rev Hugh Gough: Leonard Matthews, comics editor... Page 25

Insurance: Donald Gordon. the colourful South African insurance magnate, may be ready to leave South Africa and seek a share listing in-

... Page 27

NAME OF

St Paul's: A Japanese property developer stepped gingerly into a British minefield with new proposals for redeveloping the ugly Paternoster Square, next to St Paul's Cathedral

London...

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 77.4 to close at 4985.8. Sterling rose from 104.3 to 104.5 after a fall from \$1.6958 to \$1.6895 ... Page 31

Rugby union: It is virtual-

ly impossible to conceive

that England will beat New Zealand Page 33 Footbell: Shane Nicholson of West Bromwich Albion was cleared of taking an amphetamine...... Page 37 Tennie: Martina Hingis was knocked out of the Chase Championship by Mary Pierce Page 34

Salling: Lawrie Smith, on Silk Cut, has moved into fourth place on the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World

Page 34

Euro stars: Serious partying in Paris...... Page 8 Jocelyn Stevens: The big bad wolf of English Heritage interviewed... Page 18 Tough love: The rise of the Promise Keepers. Page 27 Top wines: Jane Mac-Quitty's choice.... Page 99

Comic reborn: Imogen Edwards-Jones meets Paul Kaye Pages 6-8 Music: Kylie Minogue's progress from tomboy to poptart ____Pages 12-15 Books: For an author, selling a book can be as hard as writing it ... Pages 16-23

WEEKEND

Fairy-tale princess: How the Germans see the story Shopping: Men's clothes take soft option. Pages 4, 5 Home life: Paternity trouble - a mother tells her ... Page 6 story Property: Penthouses: homes by the racecourse: top agents Page 8-10 Travel: Christmas markets: winter birdwarching; charity treks. Pages 25-33

Vision

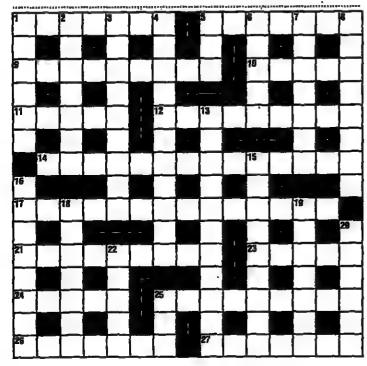
Full seven-day television and radio guide

Our new kids comic makes its debut

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,644

A E20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition. PO Box 486. Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address.



- 1 Soldiers lit for another light (7). Nonsense books I produced in a
- hurry (7). 9 To express weariness in public could be a mistake (9).
- 10 Top mark in Greek (5). 11 Behave badly in a court, appearing for trial (3.2).
- 12 Moderate caught demonstration can become offen-
- 14 Game editor's request to readers?
- 17 Take action against bacteria, an unusual form of life (14). 21 State of a royal child (9).
- 23 Leader of Government ousted from friendly African state (5). 24 European money, including none that's controlled by French banks
- 25 Alien enemy surrounding dominion. right? (9).
- 26 Wandering account of a post-war decade (7).
- 27 School affected by cut has to secure inferior goods from US (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20.638

- 1 In New York, an inn for Japanes
- 2 He must control the players or teams become disorderly (7).
 3 Examine a religious group, one operating on a different plane?
- Energetic senior editor seen about captive soldier (4-7).
- Turning cartwheels can make such a deep impression (3). Vote with the opposition party (5). One political representative a number of Germans suggested
- 8 Filly in form leading at Cheltenham, say (4.4).
- 13 Starting instruction, this is how you'll be assessed (2,4.5).
- 15 Found his tables collapsing (9). 16 A top firm introducing first-class line in fashionable resort (8).
- 18 Sort of vehicle that provides a 19 Write to after arrest, and meet 20 Jacket a girl put on king (6).
- 22 In which, essentially, you need to take a piece? (5). 25 Young cook (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,643



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HOURS OF DARKNESS

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING ರಾಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವರ ಶಾಗ್ರಹ

FORECAST chilly start, there will be sunny intervals and showers, some heavy. A light or moderate breeze from a southerly direction. Max temp 12C (54F). I SW & MW Scotland, Glesgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, Orkney, Shettands sunny spells and showers, some heavy.

Conneral: eastern parts with have a mostly dry day with pleasent surray speaks and only a small chance of a shower. Southwest England, Wates, Northern Ireland and northwest of Scotland with have occasional showers, some heavy, but there will be good periods of surahina in between the showers. The A moderate to fresh south or south Li Horders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Horay Fith, NE Soutland: mostly dry with surny spells but an lectated shower is possible later. A moderate to treat south-easterly breeze.

South will stay dry. The wind will be light or moderate from a southerly direction, but it will be fresh in the north. □ London, E Anglis, Midlands, E, HW, Central N & NE England: mostly dry and sunny after a chilip and misty start A light south-easterly breeze. Max temp 12C (54F).

□ SE & Cent S England, Channel

Listes early mist clearing to give surny intervals and coastal anowers. A light south to south-easterly breaze. Max tamp 12C (54F).

Max temp 10C (50F).

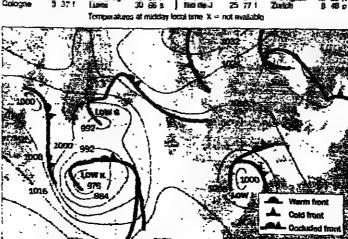
Dispublic of Ireland: mostly dry, apart from the odd coastal shower, with bright or sunny spells becoming more cloudy later. Wind light and variable becoming southeast. Mixx 11C (52F). Controls: most parts will be dry and chilly but with plenty of sunstans. tomorrow. However, east coasts of England and Scotland will have more in the way of cloud and some light showers.

tarly breeze. Max temp 11C (52F).

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

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Fairy-tale princes: the Cormans see the Shopping: Men's de lake soft ephon. Page

Property: Penilin organ by the races

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Why. Claudia should be allowed to light-up

Paternity trouble: a mother tells her story



Sporting parents' guide to skiing for children

Pages 28,29

THE

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

VEEKEND

Diana, the last fairy-tale princess

The life and death of Diana, Princess of Wales has been turned into a children's story, but one that the Royal Family may find too close for comfort.

Roger Boyes talks to one of the Austrian authors



Robert Menasse, one of the authors of the The Last Fairy-tale Princess, and Gerhard Haderer, the book's illustrator

who did not believe in fairy princesses. Fortunately, Sophie's father was a novelist, her mother a historian, her Diana, Princess Diana. The aunt a journalist and their newspapers: the Princess. Confamily friend a cartoonist, versations with my wife: the Gerhard Haderer, known for Princess. On television: the his scathing caricatures of the Queen of England.

And so a fairy-tale was re- ner? Correct. invented in time to fill the Christmas stockings of German children.

The Last Fairy-tale Princess was written for five to nineyear-olds who missed out on the storybook life of Diana, Princess of Wales, obscured as it was by the adult maze of eating disorders, adultery and

On the day that the Princess died, Robert Menasse, an Austrian novelist, headed out from Vienna to his country cottage with his family to do some work on his novel. "I must

nce upon a time confess that Lady Diana never there was a young interested me," he said. But his life, he found that weekend, had been invaded by the death of the Princess. "On the car radio: Princess Diana, Princess funeral. What did my wife, my sister and I discuss over din-

> ."Then my daughter suddenly piped up: Why are you talking about a princess the whole time? Princesses only exist in fairy-tales"." The eight-year old girl was irritated that the grown-ups were obsessively talking about a child's subject without even involving the children.

The short book redresses the balance. The pictures can be viewed as parody - the Queen. in particular, comes over as a grumpy mother in law - and the words are witty to adult readers. But the main audience gently that the marriage of a beautiful girl to an eligible prince does not, in itself, constitute a happy end, or even a happy middle.

Modern fairy-tales have footnotes and postscripts. "There was once a kindergarten teacher," the book says. "She lived in a land surrounded by water. The country was ruled by an old Queen guarded by men who wore fur helmets even in summer." The Prince, whose ears are distinctively shown in the pictures, "liked to wear checked skirts and woollen knee socks. Most of all he liked to play polo, a ball game which is very difficult because you

8-10 COUNTRY LIFE 12 PETS.

"The Princess was photographed the whole time . . . The Prince was so upset by the fuss that he preferred to spend his time with a lady-friend, who no one wanted to photograph is little girls who have to be told have to ride horses while playing it". The couple met, married and "never before have so many people in the world watched television at the

same time". The media weave in and out of the story because they, too, are part of modern fairy-tales. Indeed, journalists play the role of wicked wolves.

The Princess was photographed and watched the whole time...she was never

left in peace." The result: "The Prince was so upset by the fuss that he preferred to spend his time with a lady-friend, who shared his interest in tiding and who no one wanted to photograph."

This being a fairy-tale for little girls, the Princess's clothes feature strongly. "She had the very best clothes and when her cupboard was too full, she sold them. And because a princess is different, her worn clothes were worth more than they were new. She earned lots of money, which she gave to the poor and

nd then something happened which never happens in fairy-tales: The Prince and the Princess divorced. This was so outrageous that the Princess was followed by photographers and reporters everywhere she went. The whole world wanted to know: what would the beautiful Princess do now?" After the divorce, the prin-

cess became the most photographed woman in the world. And so her clothes became even more precious and earned even more for the poor and the sick. After her death, the authors say, "her old clothes were worth ten times what they were

worth when she was alive". The little girl to whom I read this story understood the point: that the Princess's clothes were somehow part of her magic, like gold spun out of thread.

The lonely Princess fell prey again to the evil photographers when she fell in love with a millionaire. "He loved the Prin-

TRAVEL

cess so much that he wrote poems for her and had them engraved on silver plates which he placed under her pillow."

Then, the Paris chase, the fatal crash. The most dramatic picture in the book depicts Dodi Fayed (identified only as "the millionaire") making a dash to his car with Diana... "In those days it became dangerous to be seen with a

camera.* Adult irony edges into the narrative. "It was a sad time for the famous conductor, for the famous opera director, for the famous psychotherapist, and the very famous missionary

Continued on page 2

ANOTHER TIME.

ANOTHER FACE.

REVERSO DUO.





17 FAITH ..





GARDENING..... 21-23



GAMES...

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Their last minutes: the fairy-tale depicts Dodi Fayed (identified only as "the millionaire") making a dash to his car with the Princess of Wales, eluding the paparazzi who play the role of wicked wolves

Continued from page 1 and Peace Prize winner who died in the same week. Because nobody found the time to talk about their

Children love statistics. So many newspapers were sold after the crash "that Finnish woodchoppers had to work twice as much as usual" to supply the wood that made the paper that produced the newspapers. Planes full of flowers had to fly from Israel to keep up with the demand for floral tributes.

The Queen does not escape lightly in this tale. "The old Queen never much liked the Princess," the book says. "Now she had to do all kinds of things to honour her, because otherwise the sad people would have chased her out of the palace.

And in the whole land flags hung at half-mast as a sign of grief" — except over Buckingham Palace, until "the people compelled the Queen, whether she liked it or not, to hang her flag at half-mast as well".

Sophie's mother, who is narrating the story, tells her daughter: "That was the tale of the last real fairy-tale princess. And because she died, she

That the Princess of Wales fives on is certainly the impression one gains from German newspaper stands: the front pages of 12 titles this week carried pictures of her with headlines such as "Diana --Evidence of Murder?", "Diana Speaks to her Children from the After Life", "Charles to Camilla: I Don't Want to See You". In Berlin-

'The people compelled the Queen, whether she liked it or not, to hang her flag at half-mast'

the Diana myth".

The myth of the Princess has had an impact on many continental novelists. "Writers are voyeurs." Menasse says. The function of a writer, he says, is to disentangle myths from their interpretation, to set the story straight. First there was Oedipus, then there was the Oedipus complex... Yet we behave as if it were the other way round -

students have been enrolling for a as if the Oedipus complex was term of courses on the "semiology of always there and the figure of Oedipus is just someone who matches the symptoms."

The same is in danger of happening to the Princess of Wales. There is as yet no Diana syndrome, but soon well-born anorexic daughters will be told that there was always such a syndrome."

Suhrkamp, the publisher of The Last Fairy-tale Princess, has sold the rights of the book around the world,

and is talking to British publishers. The central question is whether the British reading public is ready to accept, so soon, the reshaping not only of the Princess's life story but of

a specifically national myth. Some British readers may also find Gerhard Haderer's illustrations too adulty satirical. He portrays the Queen as a scowling matron with an outsize crown, and in one of the scenes shows the Princess hobnobbing on a sofa with celebrities while Michael Jackson is sitting on the floor playing with one

of the young Princes.

Menasse's fairy-tale devotes more space to the national mourning of the Princess's death than to her marriage; in some ways this flatters the British people but it may, over

time, seem to be the correct reading of the relationship between the Princess and the British psyche.

Menasse argues that the Princess is a key to understanding the modern world. To describe our world we do not need to resort to the ancient myth. We have our own

myths and our own fairy-tales." After the adults had compiled the text, they read it over and over again to Sophie to ensure that she understood the story. The fairy-tale ends up, like the Princess's life, "as an easily understood story which we cannot completely understand".

The book is dedicated to Sophie. ● The Last Fairy-tale Princess, by Elizabeth, Eva and Robert Menassi Illustrations by Gerhard Haderer (Suhrkamp, Frankfurt).

not" - suggests that a serious treatment with angles other than Morton's is unlikely to be

published soon. "The inter-

viewees would not talk until at

least a year after her death."

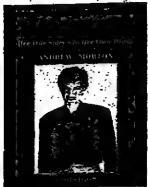
she explains. "If I was a great friend of hers, I wouldn't."

Morton still outsells the rest

Diana: Her True Story in her own words by Andrew Morton (Michael O'Mara, £15.99). Controversial biography. Sales: £1,357,372

Diana, Princess of Wales:
A Tribute by Tim Graham (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.99). Photo-story of her life. Sales: £313.173

Diana: Her True Story by Andrew Morton (Michael O'Mara, £6.99). The original exposé: Sales: £152.551



Diana: A Tribute to the People's Princess by P. Donnelly (Bramley Books, £7.99). Sales: £88.715 Diana. Princess of Wales 1961-1997: A Tribute in Photographs ed. Michael O'Mara (Michael O'Mara, £15.99). Sales: £85.934 Diana: Her New Life by Andrew Morton (Michael O'Mara, £6.99). Sales: £74,814



■ Diana: A Life and Legacy by Anthony Holden (Ebury Press, El6.99). Sales: £38.862 ■ Diana Remembered by The Daily Telegraph (Macmillan, £12.99 and £14.99), Sales: 631,358 Diana: The People: Princess by Nicholas Owen (Carlton Books, £12.99). A



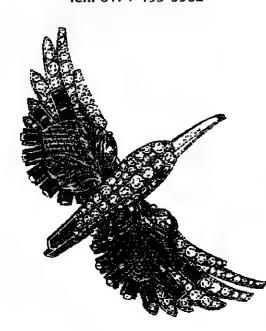
Tribute to Our Princess by Audrey Daly (Ladybird Books, £1.50). This pocketmoney buy has 20p of the cover price donated to the Diana Memorial Fund. Sales: £23,234 • Sales from Aug 31 to Nov 15. Source: Whitaker BookTrack.

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THE MARKET Diana still big news in the book world

People who believe that the market for books on Diana, Princess of Wales is saturated, should think again, Alex O'Connell writes. International interest in her story is unprecedented - there are three Diana books in the New York Times bestseller lists — and as many as 50 more books on the Princess her life and death are planned for publication before the first anniversary of her

death next summer.
While British publishers negotiate with the German publishers of The Last Fairy-tale Princess, there are signs that Christmas sales of the books already on offer are levelling



out. Such delights as the Teletuboles are now outstrip-ping Diana in the bestseller

But the trade is hoping for a late Christmas rush and is confident of a surge in the runup to next year's anniversary.

While Andrew Morton still tops the list with Diana: Her true story - in her own words, followed by the photographer Tim Graham's Diana, Princess of Wales: a Tribute, biographers have little doubt that there is room for more.

pipeline are the acerbic writer Julie Burchill, whose description of Diana some years ago in a newspaper column as "the people's Princess" has been plagiarised without shame by Tony Blair. Burchill is pro-Diana and her book will contain plenty of

Among those with books in the

large, flattering pictures ac-companied by spiky prose — the spikes being used in de-fence of her heroine. Two Time magazine journalists are finishing an investi-gation into the circumstances of Diana's death, looking those responsible and provid-ing a detailed chronology of

her last moments.

Death of a Princess: an Investigation will be one of the first serious attempts to determine who was responsible for the accident on that Sunday night in August and, as result, is likely to sell.

The market will take an investigative book and there is room for more picture books as well." says Georgina Capel, Julie Bur-chill's literary agent "But it can't take any more of those general books."

The royal biographer Sarah Bradford, whose book Elizabeth, a Biography of Her Majesty the Queen, was serialised in The Times, believes a serious treatment of the Princess would sell. "I was sent a lot of Diana books to review and I dug my heels in and said no because most of them were too awful," she says. There was one called Letters from God, written by children to God after her death, and another called The Wisdom of Diana. "

Bradford, an admirer of Andrew Morton's book - "it is still the best whatever your view of whether the tapes should have been included or

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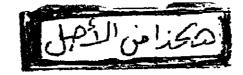
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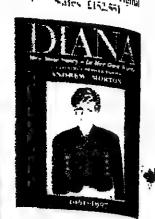




TOP TEN Morton Still

SATE REDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

outsells the rest



ou have a

aint against ewspaper?

** 353 1248

Who's been sleeping in my bed?



: A kiss recorded on heat-sensitive film. White shows the hottest areas of the body, the face and underarms, while the cooler parts are shown in dark blue



Ordinary detergent bubbles, at around one five-hundredth the thickness of a human hair, are one of the thinnest substances visible to the naked eye



An electron micrograph of a human hand, showing the build up of thousands of sweat droplets produced after an hour's exercise

weating in terror, you are locked into a hideous dream of carnivorous aliens swarm-

ing over your body. The alarm jerks you awake. "It was only a nightmare," you think, but in fact the real nightmare is only just beginning.
You roll out of bed, leaving your partner to luxuriate for a little while longer on her warm pillow . . . where a small civilisation thrives. These are

Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus the flesh-eating pillow mites. Under the microscope they are hulking armoured beasts, with eight legs and massive rhino-like necks, which makes them superbly equipped for life inside our pillows.

Their feet have flared pads, like a creature from Star Wars, to prevent them sinking into the soft filling, and since it is hard to see in the dim light, they signal romantic availability not by crude bellowing calls, but by the polite release of a floating vapour.

The insect swivels its huge neck to get a directional fix, and then, as gracefully and balletically as an armoured monster can, trundles hopefully forward for the trysts that await, to produce yet more of these generations that live beneath us, microscopically nibbling our loose

Their population can be as low as 10,000 in ultra-hygienic homes, but if this is the house where busy professionals only change the pillowcases, but neglect to rinse, soak, boil or simply wash the pillow itself, then the inhabitants can be discreetly fruitful and multiply for weeks, months or

In homes like this, each pillow might be home to 400,000 or more creatures. And with the half-pint of water vapour we exhale over them every night, they are safely

In the kitchen, dad opens a bottle of freshly-squeezed orange juice. Some of what's there actually comes from squeezed oranges, but that is pretty expensive stuff, so a lot of it is simply recycled pulpwash, a substance made by spray-blasting otherwise unusable rinds. Since pulpwash on its own tastes as terrible as you'd expect, sugar is added, then some of the active chemical from nail varnish remover, to give the pulpwash a palatable tang, and then varnish solvent, to keep that tang from

getting too strong.

To stop the floating mess from breaking apart entirely, a dose of the

David Bodanis

reveals the

terrifying world of microscopic bugs and chemicals that invade our daily life

embalming fluid formaldehyde - or a chemical near-cousin - goes in: the chemical is ideal at forming tight linking groups between proteins, be it dissolved bits of cadavers or scattered

flecks of pulpwash.

The first glasses are drunk contentedly, but the teenage daughter reacts furiously when more is offered her. Don't they realise that she just so happens to be on a diet? The mother tries to ignore the outburst, but several hundred nanograms of the peptide hormone ACTH are likely to be cascading down from her brain, in reverberating response to her daughter's flare-up. This can upset her immune system for hours, making her more susceptible to cold

viruses or other microbial assaults. The baby, meanwhile, is sitting on the carpet and investigating his sister's leather jacket, which is coated with thousands of cotinine molecules, residue from the cigarettes she smoked the evening before. The molecules bounce off the leather into the air and float into the sniffing baby's lungs. Some of the molecules will pass into his bloodstream and end up, months hence, stored in his growing hair. The carpet beneath him is densely impregnated with hairs, skin flakes, textile fibres. fragments of dead insects, pollen, bacteria and millions of particles of

months-old cat saliva. Blissfully unaware of this microscopic jungle, the family gathers itself for a trip to the shops. Outside the shopping centre now — the daughter lagging ostentatiously behind where solar photons which were speeding through space at the orbit of Venus just two and a half minutes ago crash on to the family. Everyone's mood unexpectedly goes up, for the crash-impacting phoons stimulate their endorphin levels to rise.

The family is likely to be greeted by tiles at the entry, which makes them speed up, but then there might be carpets once they are in store, which makes them slow down. They are also likely to veer to the right - which is why shopping centre owners can charge higher rates on that side.

The son takes out a stick of chewing gum as he browses. Chewing gum has to be made of substances soft enough for chewing - Vaseline, lard or beef tallow are commonly in there - and trap them in a bouncy rubber matrix. To stop unpleasant leakages, bits of children's glue are mixed in, along with dollops of sticky soap, or even polyethylene - the stuff that

makes up plastic bags. The parents pause at a food shop, eager to drink a liquid mash that plants evolved to fatally over-accelerate the neurotransmitters in ancient bulge-eyed insects. It is coffee, of course. When a non-dairy creamer is stirred in, it becomes attractively white as it is poured out. This is guaranteed by manufacturers mixing in titanium dioxide. It is the same whitener that sloshes around in buckets of white latex paint, which is something to think about while sipping coffee outside a DIY store.

ack home, the tail-thumping dog is desperate to greet the returning family. If there is a big slobbery kiss - and who can resist? - then several squirming Entamoeba gingivalis predators that live in the mouth of 50 per cent of domestic dogs will be transerred over. These can survive for days or weeks in your mouth. squirming around our gums for their live bacterial prey.

Along the way there is likely to be a squelching Alien-like expulsion, as up to 16 baby amoebae emerge from each one. Most of the babies quickly battle each other to the death, or simply free fall from where they try to cling on to us and, with a barely noticed gulp, they are swallowed.

The day is over, so it is up to bed. While dad turns the thermostat nice and high — ideal for boosting the pillow-mite population — mum helps her son fluff up his pillow. Each whacking compression shoots geysers of dust mite body parts into the room and they float down over the boy all night in allergy-inducing

There is more to do, but the parents are tired. They climb the stairs to sleep, and to dream.

■ The Secret Family, by David Bodanis, published by Simon & Schuster (£18.99).



Household dust is rich in hairs, skin flakes and fibres from clothing and furniture. At the centre of the electron micrograph is a fragment of an insect's compound eye



Orange juice is often seen as an antidote to colds but while the vitamin C crystals of ascorbic acid dissolve in

gresh black pepper with a strong Trace of humbugs emerge when you add a drop of Water. The flavour is coo/ to the palate but spicy on the tongue, fresh, citrus and Glenmorangie. It's final maturation period is spent in Madeira castes, to produce its bright amber colour and

an associating blend of aromas. It is one of a range of

Gleomorangie special wood finishes including Post and Sherry

GLENMORANGIE WOOD FINISHES

For those who nose.



Sir Nicholas Goodison with Sue Jackson and some of her automata in the Cabaret Mechanical Theatre. "They should be seen as works of art"

Playtime for grown-ups

ir Nicholas Good-ison's outwardly patrician manner conceals an almost boyish enthusiasm for mechanical toys. It is a lifelong interest that regularly lures the deputy chairman of Lloyds TSB and former chairman of the Stock Exchange into an unusual establishment in the heart of Covent Garden.

Sue Jackson's Cabaret Mechanical Theatre exhibits and sells automata — the intricate, ingenious and often wickedly humourous mechanical toys of which Sir Nicholas is a leading collector. They are extremely colourful, very amusing and provide a lot of fun." he enthuses. "When you have people to dinner, they

love to play with them." Sir Nicholas bought his first one when he was 19 and serving in the Army in Germany. He now has 900. from pecking hens and cone puppets to designs by such leading British craftsmen as Paul Spooner, Peter Markey, Keith Newstead and Ron

Many were acquired through Ms Jackson, who originally opened a craft shop in Falmouth, where she started exhibiting the work of Peter Markey and Paul Spooner; in 1985 she opened in Covent Garden. "I don't like the words art and craft, shop, exhibition or museum — I

wanted to create a place where

everybody could just come and have fun." she says. Although there is an admission charge, Ms Jackson insists it is not a money-making venture, but a labour of love. She recently had to sell two prized originals to an American collector for £27,000 to keep going: most pieces range

in price from £15 to £1,500. "I always recommend visitors to London to come here because it is one of those

· INTEREST

wonderful unsung places that are a joy to discover." says Sir Nicholas, who admits that although he often comes just to look round, he usually ends up

MY FAVOURITE SHOP: SIR NICHOLAS GOODISON

buying something.
On this occasion he parts with £865 for the latest annual Paul Spooner limited edition - a suggestive piece entitled The Green Ball and described as "a woman having a nice time with her washing machine". As the handle is turned, the wooden mechanism makes the machine spin in a most realistic way until a green ball is thrown from from the front.

The flow and the sequence of the movements are what make it so clever," says Sir Nicholas. "And the wry humour is typical of Spooner." Pausing to chuckle over Ron Fuller's lifesize ticket collector, who automatically stamps your ticket on the door, he enters the museum section to

DEPOSI

point out some of his other lavourite pieces. Keith Newstead works in

metal and his peacock, which cocks its head and fans its tailfeathers in a lifelike manner, is much admired. It was his flying dragon, the original of which has pride of place in the window, that prompted Sir Nicholas to exceed his price limit some years ago when he paid £300 for it.

e says: "Until then. my ceiling had been £50. The dragon was one of the first things Newstead made, and the way he articulated the whole body marked him out as a man of genius."

He is also a great admirer of Peter Markey's wooden wave machines, which recreate an ocean swell using a series of complex wooden gearings. Sir Nicholas bought one of his

gross p.a* fixed

larger pieces and donated it to the National Museum of Wales, where it is displayed in the foyer. A lifesize golden donated to the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood after he commissioned them from artist Roy Hewson, only to find that they were too big for his

Sir Nicholas's love of art has always been linked with his business interests, and he is currently chairman of the Courtauld Institute, the Crafts Council and the National Art Collections Fund, the independent charity that raises more than £2.5 million a year to help museums and galleries buy works of art. -

One of the first things he did after taking over at Lloyds TSB was to fill the building with works of 20th-century British art, much of it by young artists. "When I arrived, the offices were third-rate. like a station waiting room," he recalls. "I wanted visitors to go away feeling that this was a company of quality and style." He has also published scholarly articles on the history of furniture, clocks and barometers as well as writing books on Ormolu, the work of Matthew Boulton, and English barometers 1680-1860.

Automata, he insists, should be viewed as works of art and not just novelties. "I don't know why there is this assumption that toys are only for children," he says, admiring a miniature that features a mouse taking a piece of cheese from a trap just before it snaps shut. "Some of these pieces are so delicate that you could not let children play with them very often — well, maybe only wn-up children."

MICHAEL CABLE

● Cabaret Mechanical Theatre, 33/34 The Market, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-379) 7961]. Open Mon-Sat, 10am-7pm, Sun Ham-7pm. Admission: £1.95 (children and students, £1.20)

Bags of class

IT HAS to be bomb-proof and beautiful; cool and stylish and totally practical: it has to be strong enough to carry the boring things, big enough to carry the important things and small enough to go through a revolving door without mak-

ing you look ridiculous. In short, it's tough being a briefcase. And with the variety of styles and designs available, it's getting tougher to choose one. The rule is you can have only one - a briefcase is not a handbag. Two briefcases says you are trying to impress the wrong people. Three is careless-

Black is safe: looks sharp beside a suit and won't raise choose a style - and answer

BRIEFCASES

doubts about your reliability in bank-like circles. But black is the kiss-of-death for your carefully casual dressdown Friday look of tweed jacket, chinos and deck shoes. Brown is a tricky colour - there are browns and browns, and some of

them are closet yellows. The colour rule is simple: if you can't spill an espresso on it without staining, the colour is too light. Any colour except black or brown and it's not a briefcase, it's some kind of rucksack.

So, you've agonised over the colour, now you must another practical question: will you want to be able to sit on your briefcase? If the answer is yes, go for something rugged. But if you can generally find a chair, consider one of the soft-sided attachè-case briefcases.

Material? You can choose from rubber, canvas, aluminium, nylon and good oldfashioned leather, which smells nice (an oft-forgotten virtue in crowded commuting conditions) and it just gets cooler and more beautiful with time, as it collects scuffs, scars and wrinkles just like its owner.

ANGUS CLARK Photographs: Des Jenson Resserch: Jennifer Rüggeberg



ABOVE: Mulberry's Rilley briefcase, £350, in walnut leather, has separate compartments to maintain order, and a soft leather handle and shoulder strap (0171-491 4323)



Ermenegildo Zegna (0171-493 4471) with padded nylon strap and wooden namelag. Has two practical zip front-pockets



LEFT: Brown leather briefcase from Dr Martens, £110, for the tough young executive. Has two front closures and a shoulder etrap (01933 419853)

BELOW: Mandarini Duck's Tank briefcase £195, is made of rubber and canvas. It is lightweight, yet shockproof and has a detachable nylon shoulder strap. From The Conran Shop (0171-589 7401)



ABOVE: Paperchase's brushed atuminium portfolio, £75, looks very cool, and has a equara photoframe inset (0171-580 8498)



RIGHT: At £1,850, the Hermès tan Danube briefcase is worth holding on to; it has a classic shape and is crafted from fine leather (0171-823 1014)



ABOVE: Armani's black briefcase, £589, in shiny leather. At Harrode (0171-730 1234)



ABOVE: Black nylon briefcase, £13.50 from Paperchase (as above), has two compartments



ABOVE: Portfolio, £129, from Brics UK in tan and brown



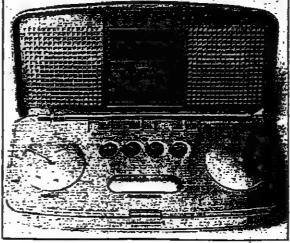
ABOVE: Dark brown Louis Vuitton (0800 393304) briefcase. £710, with two compartments



WHEN YOU are travelling you can miss some luxuries, like waking up to the sound of music on the radio. Lexon's Voyageur is not only tiny, it also boasts an FM radio in stereo. Built into its own travelling box,

GADGETS

tacle case, it has an extend-ible aerial and two large buttons for volume and tuning. The radio errs on the



The tiny Voyageur radio is a marvel of stylish design

BARGAINS tinny side but is a marvel of design nonetheless. You also get an AM radio should

decent FM stereo reception

Most of us cart a camera

or camcorder with us when

we go on holiday, but once

you start adding secondary

equipment like tripods you

can quickly turn into a

heavily-laden one-man film

crew worthy of one of Mich-

ael Palin's globetrots. Mini

Stativ is a sensational flexi-

ble tripod just three inches

It is small enough to slip

into the tiniest backpack yet robust enough to fix equip-

ment for steady or timed

● Lexon's Voyageur costs £39.99 from Business & Gifts

Ltd (01372-376554 for stockists); Mini Stative, £4.99

from The Leading Edge

TIM WAPSHOTT

be too much to hope for wherever you lay your head.

There are bargains to be had all over the country. With £100, what would you buy? FORREST & Co in London's East End specialises in auctioning household and office items on behalf of county courts and bailiffs. Beside the polished chrome

and velour dining suites, and the nouveau ceramics, there is old mahogany furniture and other genuine antiques. I bought a wicker laundry

basket, a carved trunk and a quantity of theatrical ware (c. 1940) for £28; a small oak wardrobe for £10; 180 various CD singles for £18; an antique Persian carpet for £16; a Marconi Bakelite radio and a

Bakelite telephone for £28. VICTORIA O'BRIEN ● Forrest & Co Ltd., 17-13 Gibbons Road, London E 15 21-1U (0171-534 2931) has sales every other Thursday. Viewing: day before sale 10am-Spm and orning of sale, from 10am.



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ANGES CLARK A





Softness is next to manliness



ABOVE: Fine-knit sweater £185, Missoni, Browns; Harvey Nichols (0171-584 0011). Belge moleskin crop jacket, £69.99, River Island (0181-998 8822)

atharine Hamnett has a simple rule for judging the suitability of what a man is wearing. "All a girl has to ask is: Would I go to bed with a man who wears that?"

Thankfully, she says, men's fashions this season are sexy. The minimalist looks that have defined the Nineties have infiltrated high-street stores, resulting in clothes that are simple, lean and sophisticated.

They are sharp yet under-stated, cool but comfortable... And with men's shift in attitowards grooming. helped by countless specialist magazines and style pro-grammes, the quality of the clothes they buy has im-

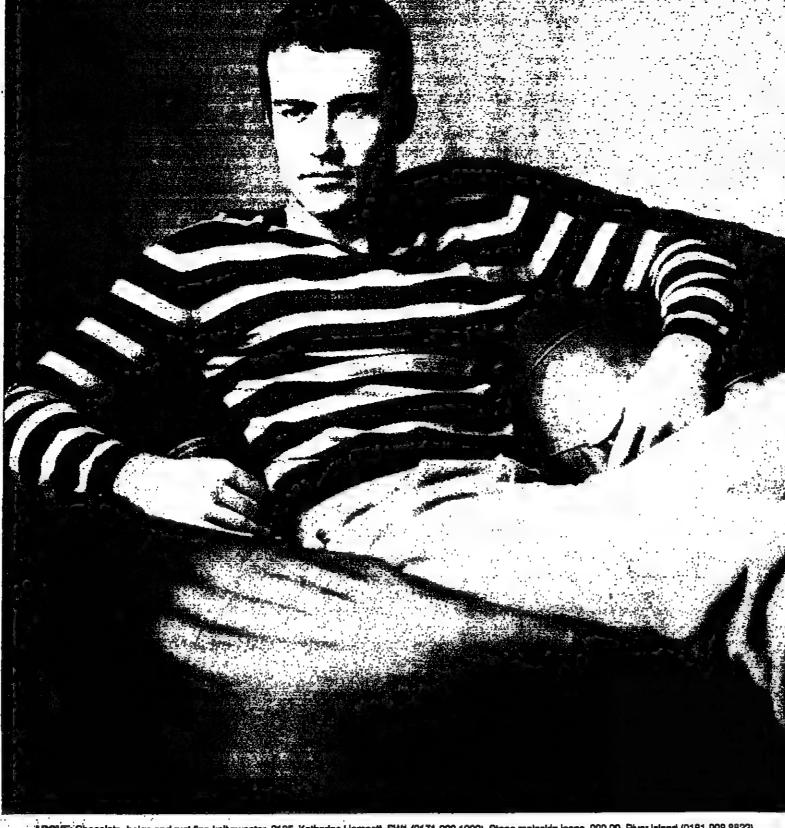
Current casualwear is a far cry from the Eighties, when the only males who wore crewnecks were advertising execs and film crews. Even for sensismant occasions, every, man can now get away with a flat-fronted pair of pousers and shirt — or, even better, a piece of classic knitwear.

element at the men's To complement the urban autumn/winter shows. There were round-necks, V-necks, crew-necks and sloppy sweaters, worn with a varied mix of textures — leather, moleskin, pinstripes and indigo denim.

lthough most were delicately coloured stone grey, chocolate, midnight blue and - designers such as Missoni, John Rocha, Nicole Farhi and Clements Ribeiro paraded wild patterns and stripes in bold hues such as ochre, lime green, tangerine and turquoise.

The choice of men's knit-wear has expanded considera-bly from lambswool, Arran and cashmere. As Hamnett says: Today you can get the same style in cashmere or Wensleydale, a super-tine weave or a heavy knit."

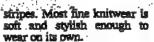
This means that it is not only golfers who are seen in their diamond patterns and



ABOVE: Chocolats, beige and rust fine-knit sweater, £105, Katherine Hamnett, SW1 (0171-823 1002). Stone moleskin jeans, £29.99, River Island (0181-998 8822)

ABOVE RIGHT: Angora sweater, £275, Nigel Curtiss, Browns (0171-491 7833); Camel cotton jeans, £150, Helmut Lang, Browns and Harvey Nichols (0171-584 0011)

**RIGHT: Animal-print sweater, £155, Eliot, Browns, as before. Dark brown moleskin jacket, £100, and matching trousers, £49.99, River Island, as before



man's lifestyle, there are ribby tank-tops and tight fine weaves from labels such as Missoni, or crew-necks from Nicole Farni; the country man can choose from either Joseph's zip-up cardigan or heavier knits from Burberry, whose Blues label includes

several in shades of denim. Although most of the styles are classic and tight-fitting. you don't have to be an Adonia to wear them. Under a jacket, or worn loosely with a pair of jeans, the new breed of knits gives every man a hard-edged. Nineties appeal which is cool. And, as Katharine Hamnett points out, sexy.

LISA GRAINGER

Photographs by Richard Burns and Chris Harris Grooming by Sally Kvalheim for Jo Hansford (0171-963 2236)

Styling by **Amandip Uppal**





LEFT: Khaki, dark green and blue sweater, £120. Katharine Hamnett, as before. Deep blue jeans, £100, Byblos, Harrods, SW1 (0171-730 1234)

ABOVE: Multicoloured striped shmere sweater, £385, Clements Ribeiro Browns, se before





THREE OF A KIND

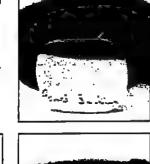
No hard-edged Nineties look is complete without a leather belt with a simple metal buckle — L.G. RIGHT: Black leather, silver

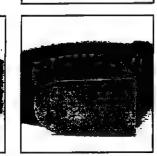
square-buckle belt, £50, Paul Smith, WC2 (0171-379 7133) **BELOW RIGHT: Black coft** leather belt with GA buckle. £89, Giorgio Armani, SW1 (0171-235 6232) BELOW: Black leather, silver square cut-out buckle belt,

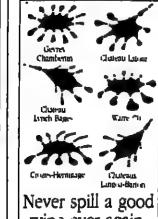
£37.50, from a selection,

Otto Glanz, Harrods, SW1







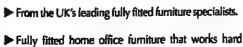


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'Although my son's birthday falls at roughly the same time every year, it always comes as the most tremendous surprise to me'

y son and I are just about to embark upon our seventh year of life together (eighth, really, I suppose, if you count, as I tend to. The Time He Spent Inside), and it occurs to me that after all these years I have still not learnt to look any further into the future than the next minute.

The lack of this useful skill has certainly contributed to the thwarting of my life's ambitions (I was at college with a fellow who was admiringly rumoured to have his entire career mapped out in easily achievable stages on a flow-chart. whatever that may be). Over the years I have failed successively to become a ballet dancer, a veterinary surgeon, a simultaneous translator, an academic and a biographer.

But despite this fearful catalogue of missed opportunity, it is in life with Alexander that my inability to anticipate is still most shamingly visible: Good gracious, I seem to be expecting a baby. Crikey, what is that stabbling pain in my middle? Oh, I see, now I am having the baby. Crash. Oh. look. he has learnt to crawl. Sizzle. And get his finger quite a long way inside the electric socket. And now, blow me down, his birthday

It's his party and I'll cry if I want to has come round again. This event, LIFE AND SOUL wanted to go home. though it falls at roughly the same time every year, always comes as the most

tremendous surprise to me. About a was still in nappies. week beforehand, when the postman the spectre of the starts delivering immense jiffy bags full children's party of lavish presents from comparative began to haunt me. Little moppets with strangers, I suddenly realise that I have legs too wobbly to hold them upright would send Alexanmade no preparations of any kind, and fall into a useless frenzy of guilt and self-reproach because I am a terrible mother der engraved invita-It was easier when he was tiny. In tions to come and those days. I would buy a large quantity celebrate their anni-

versaries. And so we

would take ourselves off to spend a couple hours in a cavernous drawing-room where, amid hideous wails of terror and dismay from the infant guests, magicians and clowns would turn up in motley garb and do their squeaky voices and make their jokes and pull rabbits out of the birthday girl's tiny ear. The organisation and expense of these

by far anything that Caligula could have

devised. I thought they were perfectly horrible, and said so to Jessica, whom I had known rather well in the years when we were both childfree and had social lives, and had reckoned to be a kindred spirit. -"I am simply not

going to participate in this absurd cargo system, where Sybil has to have live elephanis at her party because Georgie had fire-eaters at his, and Sophie's mummy is flying over the Moscow State Circus for the afternoon to perform in a marquee in the back garden. It is vile and I, voice rising to a self-righteous shriek. "OK," said Jessica, coolly. "But if you aren't going to join in, you can't accept the invitations, can you? And then what will Alexander do about friends?"

هِ كَذَا مِن رِلامِل

Oh dear. Because I am farouche and, in fact, more or less unsocialised, this aspect of things had not occurred to me. So here I was, about to deprive my poor child of friends, make his schooldays miserable and probably condemn him to spend his adult life as an ornamental hermit — all on some Cromwellian point of principle. The fact that Alexander himself was not, as a toddler, much of a party animal and, when taken to some jolly kiddies' gathering, would look austerely around the assembled munchkins and say, loudly and with evident distaste, "I think all these children should go home now", simply made things worse. Obviously, a party would have to be held.

Only, what sort of party? Our house was custom-built, as far as I can tell, for a family of early 19th-century midgets.

There are two rooms up, and two down, and three people constitutes a crowd in any of them. Even if I were to hire Mr E. the arrestingly-named entertainer who seems to have the children's party market pretty well sewn up in our area, he and his funny balloons would fill up the drawing room all by themselves. The children would have to watch from outside, through the front window. As for marquees in the garden — the only kind of circus we could comfortably accommodate in our diminutive patch is a circus of performing fleas.

las, I said to Linda, in a hopeless sort of way. What am I to do? She let me swing in the wind long enough to make me resolve that for next year, I would book a London bus, and start assembling party bags 12 months in advance. And then she took charge. Which is why you will find me, next Wednesday afternoon, patrolling Kiddies Corner in my Darth Vader outfit (Alexander wanted me to go as Princess Leia, but I can't get my hair to do that thing over the ears) prodding with my light sabre any little child who seems not to be enjoying himself . . .

Mother's dilemma: whose son is he?

in 1994 there was a blank space on his birth certificate under "Name of father". I knew emotionally and irrationally who his father was, but I did not know with scientific certainty and, rather than simply insert my husband's name into the empty space, I em-barked on the daunting pro-cess of acquiring proof of who the real father was.

There are some things that nobody ever talks about. Even in the confessional, new morality of the Nineties there are still a few taboos, one of which is what scientists call "the frequency of non-paternity".

Even in ultra-conservative Switzerland, an analysis of blood samples revealed that this was I per cent of the population. In less orderly societies, the figure is believed to be about 4 per cent, with child support agencies suggesting it could be as high as 15 per cent. In other words, a significant number of men are unknowingly raising children who are

not their genetic offspring. This means that we are all likely to be acquainted with a family in this position, even if

we are not aware of it. The Office of National Statistics has just revealed a

Caroline **Bridgewood** on

with a heart of stone.

of champagne, and make an airy sponge

cake with a candle in the middle of it, and

invite my friends round. We would sit

around the Moses basket, consuming the

cake and the champagne and admiring

the infant sleeping sweetly in his Bonpoint pyjamas. No pass the parcel,

no party bags full of disgusting lollipops.

No one threw up because they had eaten

too much cake, and only one or two of

them burst into tears at the end because

the pain and

uncertainty of not knowing who

your child's

father is

dramatic rise in the number of women who do not name a father when they register their child's birth: more than a quarter of a million during the past five years. There is no information about the number of women who take this course because they do not know the identity of the father, but it it is likely to be significant.

Given the complex and fluid nature of modern family life. this is not surprising. Relationships are short-lived and fidelity even more so. Couples can opt for separation to deal with their problems and then reunite: women can not for single parenthood as a positive

When my marriage started to fail and I became unhappy. I drifted into a relationship



Caroline Bridgewood didn't know who was the father of little Titus - her husband or her lover. She confessed, and divorced. A paternity test later answered her question

with a man who made me happy. Then I became pregnant unexpectedly and was faced with one of life's most difficult moral dilemmas: should I say nothing and let everyone assume that the child was my husband's, or should f own up and face the conse-

quences? After four months of acute anxiety, sleeplessness and the worst physical stress I have ever known, compounded by severe morning sick-

ness, I owned up. My husband and I separand subsequently vorced. My lover and I also went our separate ways. al-though not until after our son was born.

I was astonished by the criticism I encountered for going public. "Shut up and don't rock the boat: that way you'll hurt fewer people" was the most frequent piece of advice. It seemed I was going against a long-standing precedent of social behaviour.

In his controversial book Sperm Wars (Fourth Estate, 1996), the biologist Robin Banks confirms that, although the female subconscious is programmed to find the optimal genetic material for her offspring, it is also programmed to provide the optimal rearing conditions for them, and this may involve them being raised by someone other than their biological parent. In allowing this to happen, we are getting a better evolutionary and dynastic "result" and avoiding what Banks calls "the disadvantages of infidelity".

This evolutionary need seems to have been built into our morality: none of the women I know who have faced my dilemma have chosen to come clean, and there are more of them that you might expect. The unfaithful, like the poor, are always with us.

ilary, a successful and independent businesswoman who became pregnant on the casp of two relationships, trusted to luck that her son would turn out to be the offspring of her new husband, and, judging by their strong physical likeness, her gamble seems to have paid off.

Sarah, the wife of a landowner and for whom divorce would have caused an inheritance nightmare, stayed mum in the face of gossip about the striking resemblance between her youngest child and her constant male companion during the summer before her daughter was born.

Alison, another businesswoman, who was pursuing an affair while trying to conceive with her husband, hoped for a little "accident" because she was convinced that her lover's offspring would be more at-

tractive than her husband's. The sister-in-law of another aquaintance was finally found out and is now divorced, but only after an affair lasting seven years and two children fathered by her lover.

Concealing non-paternity is a risky strategy. Better for the marriage, perhaps, but disas-trous for the mother-child relationship, which becomes based on a dangerous and potentially devastating lie. And one she might have to

keep up for ever. Every child must be registered within six weeks of its birth, hence the blank space

on Titus's original birth certificate. I had insisted on a formal test for paternity, but this did not take place until he was seven weeks old.

Blood samples are required from father, mother and child. and we opted to be "done" together, making a ghoulish little family outing to the phlebotomy department of a nearby hospital.

Five weeks later, the result arrived in the form of a letter from a commercial diagnostic laboratory, which can rule out a potential father but not absolutly rule one in. Instead of a "yes" or "no", there was a statistic the probability of my lover not being the father of my son was four million to one. My reaction was simple

CELEBRITIES WHO HAVE FACED THE LOVE CHILD PROBLEM

relief. I could now tell the world what I had suspected since Titus's ultrasound scan, when I saw his father's profile in miniature. I was able to reregister his birth with a full entry, and was reassured by the registrar that this was a more common occurrence

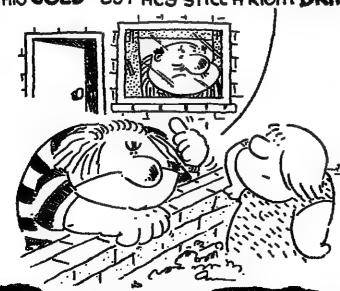
than I had imagined. Knowing the truth has not changed our outward circumstances for the better, nor is paternity testing a process that can be gone through without at best discomfiture, and at worst, pain. But my bright, healthy, affectionate and charming son compensates for all the anguish. And so does the knowledge that I will have told him the truth.

THE TEST There are a handful of

aboratories offering

paternity testing, some handling about 10,000 cases a year (and numbers are rising). Your GP can tell you the nearest. You contact the laboratory direct to arrange for forms to be completed and blood taken. A passport photograph of all parties is required. The cost is about £500 for testing nother, baby and putative father. A report is sent two to three weeks after the test. • For further information, contact Customer Services at Cellmark Diagnostics on

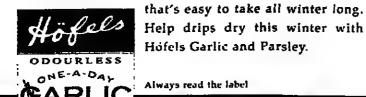
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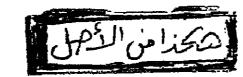
Putative fathers: Sylvester Stallone and Tom Jones



Tests showed that Sylvester Stallone was not father of his girlfriend's baby. Blood tests proved that the singer Tom Jones was "almost conclusively" the father of a love child. Paul McCartney was sued in 1984 by Bettina, Huebers, 21, who said she was his daughter. The case was dismissed.



Sir Paul McCartney: denied fathering a child



surprise to me'

are two rooms up, and two drawn ese people constitutes a crowd in them. Even if I were to hire Mr E. restantly-named entertainer who the children's pany Lipsetty well sewn up in our area.
Live funny bulloons would fill up
many room all by themselves. The as mental have to watch from a threach the front window As for kes in the garden - the only kind as we assist comfortably accommowas grammars charch is a circle of

use if any What am I to do? She see and emind in the mind fold to the real transfer that for held because back a London buy and con hig of Letter parks 15 months in to and their she back charge. or work your will find me near way aftermate Patrolling Rid office of my Darth Vader outly meet watter my to go as Princise and the tark the part of do that are do that are a series and the part of the about any lettle child who scene no





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and legited

When non-smokers are a drag nd now, I think, it is time to say something for the smokers. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that they are being persecuted, almost worse than persecuted, and if you think that that is an exaggeration, just think of the men - and women $\cos \beta \sin \beta$ end to Linda, in a hopeles, - who have been sacked for smoking. And I do not mean just the smokers who break the rules; I mean the ones who keep to the rules, yet find themselves out of a

job. (Yes, that does happen, and the innocent smokers are treated as though they were the baddies.) Now if a Moon-man came down to Earth, he would, waggling his peculiar ears, look around for human beings. He would already know what we look like, and he also would now know many of the things the human beings do.

For instance, human beings like to be warm, not cold, and dry, not wet. So far, so good. But then our Moon-men begin to scratch their heads in wonder; to find our human beings wet and cold and shivering. The smokers had been number of the smokers had been

It was a long time until that great man, Richard Doll, who knew everything about the human body, first spotted the connection with that body and the inhaling of tobacco smoke. (There is the mystery I don't think even Professor Doll could elucidate it - the mystery of the vast hundreds of thousands of people who had smoked like chimneys without coming to



In the light of

Tony Blair's tobacco

sponsorship débacle,

Bernard Levin,

leaps to the

defence of smokers

any harm.) Come, away from this dandying and playing and mincing and dancing; I am speaking up for people - ordinary, decent, honest

people - who like to smoke.

Now, before the howling and velling gets into gear, allow me to say that I am not a smoker, I have never been a smoker, and I certainly am not going to become a

My grandfather smoked at least dozen every day (and he lived to be 97), and my mother had a puff or two in a month. There is a photograph of me with a cigarette in my mouth, but closer examination shows that it is held the wrong way and presumably not burning. No, I am no smoker and I thank my stars that I am not.

I have repeatedly pointed out the appalling cowardice of the United States. No, I am not talking about the Americans in war, who were all as brave as any fighter, it is the more delicate fighting.

And only a few months ago there



Claudia Schiffer condemned by Frank Dobson for smoking

was a supreme example, almost certainly never to be beaten. The American tobacco firms all got together and gave away, gave it all away. And what was the sum, unbelievable sum, that was thrown up and torn into pieces? It was, in American numbering, three hun-dred billion dollars, or in the

British tongue, one hundred and eighty-five billion pounds.

Now there can be only a few people—almost all very old—who do not know the danger of smoking. Some, the older ones, shrug and say that their years are sliding away and it doesn't matter; others take the bravado path and say they are immune; again, others say that God will help them, or that he dangers are not so great as others

There are, of course, many in the United States (and nowadays more and more in Britain), who demand payment even if there is nothing to pay for - that is, knowing the danger of the smoke and then complaining about a sore throat.

Before the great crash of billions leaping styles, there were a few cases in which the tobacconists fought and won. The most remarkable was one in which the plaintiff was dead - from smoking - and his family lost the case. I think that that must have been the last of the single fights, and the last words in the story were, "I don't know how people in the industry sleep at night".

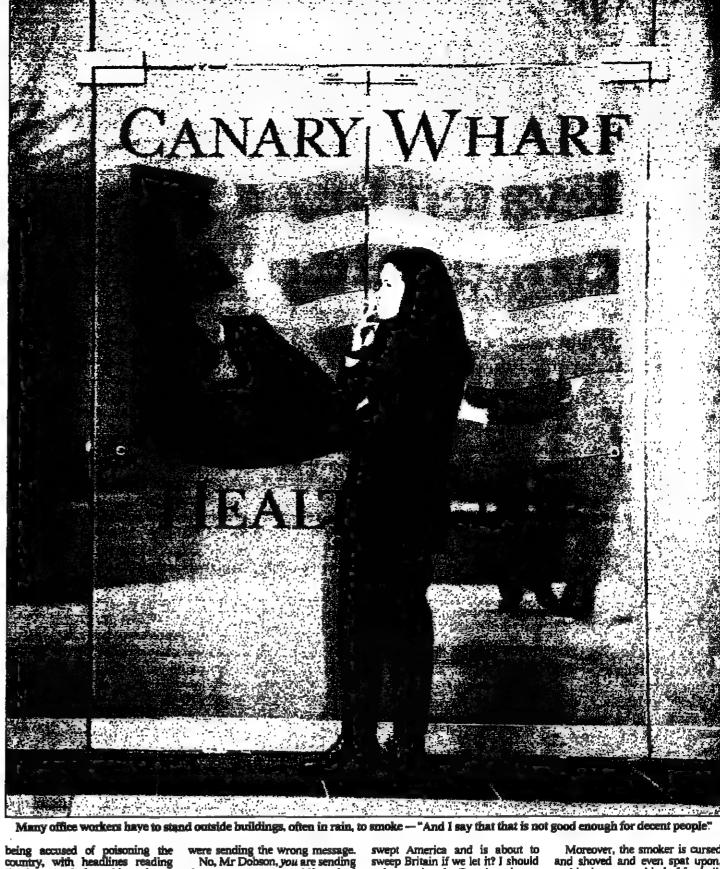
ut let us look not just at those millions and billions; let us look at a few people who smoke, knowing the danger. Outside this very building there is something like a mournful gathering, a daily gather-ing that might resemble a group of people coming back from a funeral.

The gathering runs round almost all the building, and all the way around there are people leaning on the brickwork to smoke. Cold, rainy, windy, there is nothing to break the nastiness. And I say that that is not good enough for decent people.

As I said, the Americans were,

and always are, the first to run away. In Washington you can see signs reading "No smoking in this entrance", and it goes further: they are now about to bring in laws which would confine the smokers to fifty feet away from any doorway (lunacy, thy name is tobacco) — finally putting the smoker on the pavement. And believe it or not, the pavement smoker must be walking all the time he smokes.

You think that such madness could never take root in Britain? You are wrong. Try Kleinwort Benson for one (I never did like the cut of their jib), which "allows smoking in the office only after 6pm, has no designated room, and bans its staff from smoking near the building". And now the PM is



Biair accused of wrecking tobacco ban". Next, Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, is trying to ban smoking in pubs. In pubsi

It gets worse. And worse. And worse still. Take this idiotic exchange with the Health Secretary, Mr Dobson, Models who smoke cigarettes on the catwalk were condemned as "disgusting". He said models such as Claudia Schiffer (one of the most beautiful ladies alive), who had been phographed holding a cigarette even though she does not smoke,

the wrong message, and if you had seen the glorious Schiffer close up (I have) you would have the sense to put a bag over your head and keep it there. And, while I'm on the subject, Madame Jeanne Louise Calment - who was the oldest person in the world when she died at the age of 122 — was not only a smoker, but would have died with a fag in her mouth had she not had to give up just because she could no longer light up without help, and

was too proud to take help.

point out that the French and even the Germans would think us crazy, and the Spaniards were puffing when the world was still a baby. (The Japanese beat the lot of us by hundreds of years, and good luck to

By now there can be no man or woman alive who does not know the danger of smoking. The Dob-sons and their kind try to claim that all smokers are in peril if they take a single puff, when in truth the number of serious smoke-killers is

and shoved and even spat upon, and he becomes a kind of football, put out for kicking. But why? It is very easy to keep out of smoking areas, and in any case most of the smoking areas are just showing off. And, as our Science Editor makes clear, the chance of a non-smoker getting lung cancer by smoking is one in 10,000. As if the abolition of tobacco advertising would change

anythingl Go away, you frighteners, and if you don't shut up I shall get an enormous pipe and pretend I am smoking it.

Family life on the ocean wave

Tor most of us, messing deposit in boats means hiring a pedalo on a quiet Sunday afternoon at the lake in the local park. It does not entail spending several years constructing your own craft and then sailing it across.

But that's exactly what some people are doing. Last week two brothers, Edward and Matthew Boreham, had to be rescued from the middle of the Atlantic after the power supply in their homebuilt rowingboat failed. And next spring Helen and Jeff Hall from Bath will take their two soms on a

Taking children

to sea for two years requires

skill and guts two-year cruise round the West Indies in a catamaran it has taken them two and a half painstaking years to construct. Mrs Hall hopes the family isn't attracting interest for the wrong reasons. "The reports about those chaps rowing

across the Atlantic were insult-

ing. One of them was a boat-

builder, but the newspapers made their boat sound like something out of a church jumble sale — they put it on a par with knitted recordercovers. I felt the media were

doing them down."

She experienced similarly negative feedback when she announced to family and friends that she and her husband planned to sail into the Caribbean sunset taking Jamie, 11, and Alexi, 8, out of school for two years in the process. (The children will be educated by their parents following the National Curricuhum with CD Roms on the onboard computer. Jamie already dazzles with his knowledge of the Global Positioning System, a hand-held navigational computer.)

The Halls, who have previously spent several years working in the Bahamas, are no strangers to the phenomenon of daring to be different. Early in the 1990s, they defied people's advice and built a house from scratch. Helen happily admits that they are "social misfits". "In all sorts of things, we swim against the tide," she says, with something approaching pride "Often we've been proved right. We're oddballs. The British are highly conservative and find us off-the-wali. I'm sure people think we shouldn't go on this trip, but we're a strong-willed couple, so they wouldn't say as much. We have a certain cussedness - or perhaps independent spirit would be a nicer way of putting it. We've al-ways done things differently." Even Alexi wants to do things his way. He says: "My friends say they wouldn't want to risk the trip. They say



Helen and Jeff Hall who will set sail next spring for two years in the Caribbean

what's the point of it?'. I think that attitude is ridiculous." Jeff, a man with a mission,

thinks nothing of putting in a 12-hour day preparing the boat but takes time out from the back-breaking work of sanding the hull. He wants to make sure the mightily impressive 36ft-long catamaran is in good shape and, it must be added, holds its resale value of up to £90,000.

Sitting in the cockpit of the vessel (housed in a corrugated-iron barn on a nearby pigfarm), he views the trip partly as a kind of bonding process. "When a storm is blowing, it will bring us closer together to see each other working in stressful as

well as idyllic situations." But he, too, ultimately comes back to the point of not subscribing to the herd mentality. "It's a simpler life when you shed all the dross," he says. "We wanted to do this trip on our own terms. It's something we've looked forward to showing the children. We're saying to them, look, you don't have to stay in England all your

lives and do a nine-to-five. Don't get stuck in a rut'." Helen says: "They'll probably end up doing a nine-to-five and wearing pinstripe suits, but at least they'll have the freedom to choose.

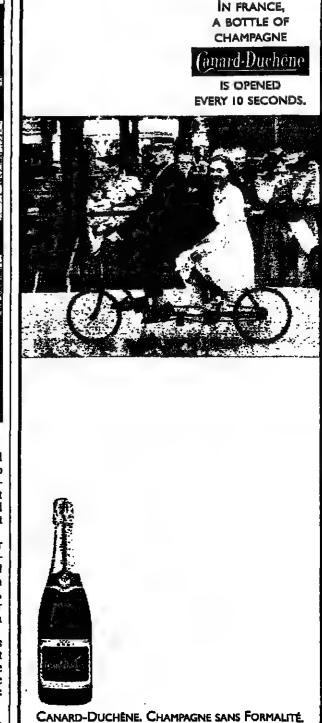
"When we come back, the boys will be unstoppable. They will have such a solid platform of experiences

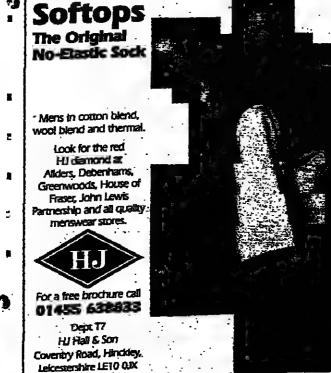
practical, academic and philosophical. There's so much more to life than material possessions. The boat is just a means to an end - the end being a way of life that you just can't achieve in Britain."

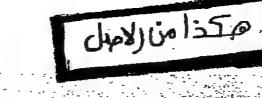
The Halls might appear impossibly New Age and idealistic, and two years cooped up in a catamaran may seem like a vision of hell on water, but I sneakingly admire their dogged attempt to realise a

As we part, I shake Helen's hand and tell her: "Most people wouldn't be brave enough to do something like this." With a smile, she replies: "Or daft enough."

JAMES RAMPTON









Elevated to the high life

Celebrities enjoy the security and privacy of a penthouse - and the stunning views, says Christine Webb

bought a penthouse flat Chelsea as his London perch earlier this year. he was following a trend in celebrity lifestyles. A pent-house offers wonderful views, generous living space and, most important of all for a celebrity, privacy. Most also have secure underground parking from which the owner can walk to a lift and press a priority button which will ensure he is whisked up to his

floor without stopping. In fact, three of the four penthouses on Mr Starr's block are owned by household names, though the selling agent signs a confidentiality clause to protect their identity.

Jeffery Archer famously lives in a magnificent twostorey penthouse with views up and down the Thames. Michael Caine has a virtual penthouse in the prestigious Belvedere block at Cheisea Harbour, where Elton John had a penthouse (which has just been sold through Chestertons for £1.1 million). Ken Bates, boss of Chelsea

Football Club, is reported to be moving into a new penthouse built on the team's home ground at Stamford Bridge.

In June, Spice Girl Mel B was said to have fallen in love with a penthouse apartment in The Village, Battersea, but lost out even though she made an offer on the £575,000 threebedroom flat. She is since said to have fallen for Michael Caine's £2 million Oxfordshire mansion.

There is good news for those who want to go up in the world: the number of penthouses in London is also rising, as developers with an eye to the premiums they command are adding new ones to the top of existing blocks of both flats and offices.

The most expensive of these are at Fountain House in Park Lane, Mayfair, where four substantial apartments were built on top of an existing block, the final one of which has just been sold through Wetherell for £4.5 million.

First Penthouse has come up with a nifty way of hoisting an extra prefabricated floor on top of blocks of offices or flats



Tall storeys help you rise above it all: Michael Caine, left, has a flat in a high-rise block at Chelsea Harbour

in 12 hours flat. This causes minimal disruption to occupants, and can bring them other benefits, says spokesman Simon Dawkins.

"We use timber-framed modules designed in London and pre-built in a Swedish factory, now made possible by the strong pound. We test them in the factory, right down to whether the toilets flush properly. Then they are broken up and shipped over here and we lift them off the trucks on to the roof in a day. They are light but strong they have to be stronger than conventional structures to withstand the journey."

The company is also adding

five penthouses to Albert Court, next to the Albert Hall, which will be completed next year. These apartments, which have CCTV security plus por-terage, are about £1.8 million through Knight Frank and Hamptons International.

nother development is at St John's Wood Court, opposite Lord's cricket ground, where the company has built three penthouses and is adding another four. The first will be ready for occupation by Christmas, priced at E795,000, plus E30,000 for a

and developer, has used a similar idea at Parkview Court, building 13 luxury penthouses, three of them duplex, on top of a five-storey mansion block on the southern end of the Fulham Road. One is still available through Hamptons

at £300,000. Galliard Homes has been adding floors to existing London warehouse and office blocks for four years, and in September released for sale 24 penthouses on the new eleventh and twelfth floors of the old Shell building in Lambeth. which it is calling the White House. All have terraces, and the flats range in price from £530,000 to £1,5 million, Here.

offices have been transformed into 397 apartments.

"As long as there are lifts, the higher you go in a block, the more expensive the apartments," says Roy Conway of Galliard. "There are no problems adding on to existing buildings so long as you do it at the same time as converting the rest of the building, otherwise you delay occupation on the lower floors."

The company has built a floor atop Great Jubilee Wharf as well, for around £540,000. This is an 18th-century warehouse it is converting at Wapping Wall, where four penthouses have been created, all of which have roof terraces

PENTHOUSES FOR SALE -

THE PENTHOUSE at 3a Palace Green, Kensington, is 3,600 glossy square feet of marble floor space, including a cinema room, on the seventh and eighth floors of a 1990s block. It has panoramic views across Kensington Palace and Kensington Gardens. It is on the market at £5.9 million through Strutt & Parker and Knight Frank. The service charges alone are £38,504 a year.

Views right over London are to be enjoyed from a penthouse on the fifth and sixth floors of the former Mount Vernon Hospital Hampstead, which is being sold by Knight Frank at

Hug queues lined up for the new flats available at the White House, the former Shell headquarters on the South Bank, and now

Raising the roof: add an extra floor in 12 hours Galliard Homes (0181-508 8881) is offering a 2,000 square foot duplex penthouse at £1.5 million. Penthouse 6. Bickenhall Mansions, Bickenhall Street,

Marylebone, offers four bedrooms and two receptions rooms with excellent views towards Regent's Park. Plaza Estates (0171-724 3100) is seeking £1.3 million for it. A penthouse designed by Piers Gough in Soho Lofts, Soho, has panoramic views of St Paul's Cathedral and

Westminster, and a roof terrace big enough to contain a potted garden. Knight Frank is selling it at £1.25 million. A three-bedroom duplex penthouse at Jacob's Island, Butler's Wharf, is right on the Thames. Berkeley Homes (01959 561499) is selling it for £1 million.

The principal penthouse at Dunbar Wharf in Limehouse takes up the top two floors of a modern apartment black and here a constructor of a modern apartment.

block, and has a spectacular octagonal living room opening on to a roof terrace giving almost 360-degree views of the river and London. Offers exceeding £1 million are being sought by FairBriar Homes (01753 655375).

The Angel on the Green, a new development in Islington, will be topped by four penthouses, the principal one being 2.800 square feet with a roof garden. Downstairs in the new block of 84 apartments built by Grove Manor Homes (0171-359 5259) is a gym, swimming pool and a restaurant.

and river views. It has also added just one magnificent penthouse to the Little Adelphi building, near Covent Garden, which it has converted from offices into flats. The penthouse has double doors eading on to terraces and is marketed at about £1.85 mil-

lion by De Groot Collis. Avril Butt, a spokeswoman for the company, says: There are very few proper pent-houses, by which I mean a topfloor flat with good views, a roof terrace on which to laze, some good ceiling heights which may allow for galleried space, and floor-to-ceiling windows. Celebrities love them because they offer privacy and

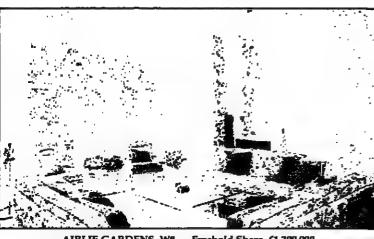
anonymity. When we do get good penthouses they tend to sell quickly."

Goldschmidt and Howland, Hampstead, is seiling a penthouse that was once occupied by Peter Sellers. The £495,000 two-bed apartment is at Northwood Lodge, in Oakhill Park, just west of Hampstead village. It tops a luxurious block and despite being only six floors up, its large terrace offers such wonderful views across London that it might be on top of the world.

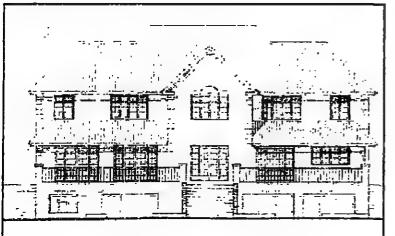
 Goldschmidt and Howland (0171-435 4404); Hamptons (0171-586 9595); Knight Frank (0171-629 8171); Galliard Homes (0181-508 8881); Wetherell (0171-493 6935).



OXFORD - Boars Hill Price Guide £295,000 An attractive house with a delightful 180 foot mature garden and far reaching views. There is planning for a first floor extension. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception room kitchen and utility/cloakroom. OXFORD OFFICE: 01865 311522



AIRLIE GARDENS, W8. Freehold Share £1,300,000 aculate lateral conversion across the 1st floors of 2 period buildings with splendid west facing views over communal gardens. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception roo utility, belcony, lift and parking space. About 247.5 sq at (2,ee4 sq it). Joint Sole Agents; JOHN D WOOD & CO 0171 727 0705 & HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL 0171 937 9371



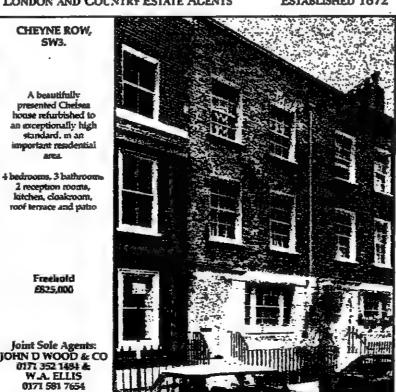
In the exclusive Moor Park conservation area, a freehold building plot with planning permission for a 604.5 sq m (6,500 sq ft) house with 6 bedroom suites, 4 reception rooms. garaging and indoor swimming pool. Joint Sole Agents: HEAD OFFICE 0171 493 4106 & PETER ROBSON & CO: 01923 820622

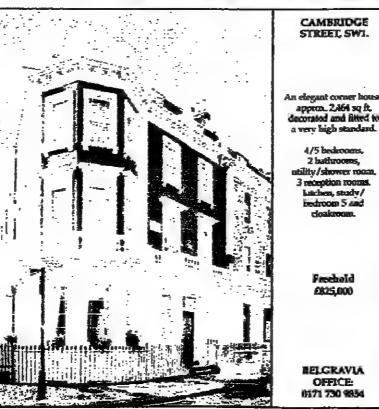
JOHN D WOOD & CO.

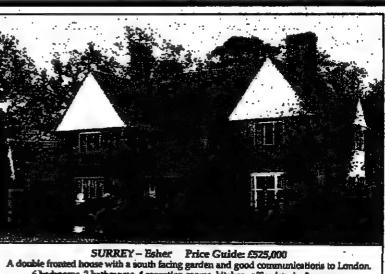
LONDON AND COUNTRY ESTATE AGENTS

£825,000

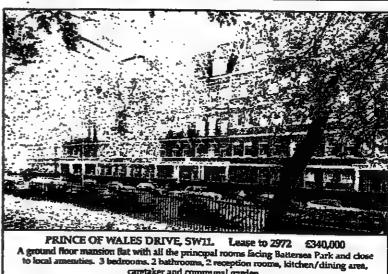
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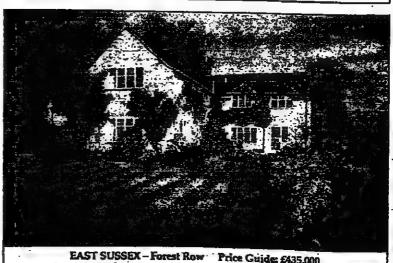




A double fronted house with a south facing garden and good communications to Lot 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, klichen, office/study, 2 garages, swimming pool, changing room with saums, shower and WC. Joint Sole Agents HEAD OFFICE: 0171 493 4106 & HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL: 01372 468411



caretaker and communal garden. BATTERSEA OFFICE: 0171 228 0174



EAST SUSSEX - Forest Row Price Guide: £435,000 Set within Ashduwn Forest, a charming stone cottage with a delightful 1/2 acre garden. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen and garaging. EAST GRINSTEAD: 01342 326326

HEAD OFFICE: 26 CL RZON STREET LONDON WIN \$1.12 0171-493 4106. FAX: 0171-029 6071 email: headothice: johndwood.co.uk | Internst: http://www.johndwood.co.uk EONDON OFFICES: BATTURSEA: 0171-225 9174 BELGRAVIA: 0171-730 9854 CHELSEA: 0171-352 1484 FELHAM: 0171-751 4225 KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705 MAYTAIR: 0171-405 0055 ST JOHN'S WOOD: 0171-722 5556 WANDSWORTH, 0181-871 5053 WIMBLEDON: 0181-944 7172 COUNTRY OFFICES; CIRENCESTER: 01285 612241 EAST GRINSTEAD: 01542 326326 TARNHAM: 01252 757115 LYMINGTON: 01590 677253 NEWBURY: 01635 523225 OXFORD: 01845 311522 WINCHESTLIR: 01962 863131 HONG KONG: 00 852 2525 4535

LETTINGS AND MANAGEMENT: To let your house or flat: Central Control Co

of the river in Battersea for better value. Demand for five or six-

bedroom Victorian terraced houses around Battersea Park, costing

from £350,000 to £750,000, forced prices up 37 per cent in the

first half of this year, says estate agent Douglas and Gordon. But

with more property on the market, purchasers are no longer prepared

A shortage of good country houses in Lancashire, within commuting distance of Manchester and Liverpool, is keeping prices high,

according to Smith Hodkinson McGinty. Fashionable areas include

Longridge, Parbold and Ormskirk, with easy access to the M6 and

Manchester airport, where a six-bedroom Georgian rectory in five

costing from £80,000 for three bedrooms. With Peterborough only

45 minutes by fast train from King's Cross and a clutch of good

schools, Rutland, England's smallest county, is attracting Londor

Stonebuilt houses, with up to five bedrooms, costing from £350,000,

in villages around Rutland Water and the market towns of Oakham Uppingham and Oundle, are highly sought-after, despite price gains

of 15 per cent this year, says Savills. Large country houses in fox-

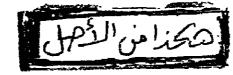
hunting country around the Vale of Belvoir are also in demand,

priced from £500,000 for six bedrooms and up to ten acres

Stone cottages in the Forest of Bowland are popular second his

to pay inflated prices and values have levelled off.

acres would set you back around £400,000.



A good bet for millionaires

Susan Sangster tells Rachel Kelly

VD - SATTERDAY NOVEMBER TH

THOUSES FOR SALE

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R. Grands

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how she went from pillar to post

to turn her house

into a fitting home for a family

hen Robert and Susan Sangster bought their .seven-bedroom house in Holland Park, west London, four years ago for about £3 million, it was a developer's delight — but

hardly the ideal family home. The essentials were in place - 20ft high ceilings, good proportions, and a basement swimming pool - but, in characteristic developer overkill, there were extra pillars in the drawing room, double doors, and far too many chandeliers for Mrs Sangster's understated style.

She knew what was needed to make it a suitable home for her three children and husband Robert, the millionaire racehorse enthusiast, whose father Vernon founded the the football pools company. Copies of the Bloodstock Breeders' Annual Review are on display in a glass-fronted cabinet in the drawing room.

The house wasn't to my taste when we bought it," Mrs Sangster says, "I wanted it to be almost like a house in the country."

A year of building and redecoration followed, with the help of the decorator Nina Campbell. "I liked her. I thought she would be very easy to work with - and she was. She made me feel as though the house was mine," Mrs Sangster says. "I thought she wouldn't take the whole house over, and she didn't. For example, if we were choosing fabrics, I might say I liked a particular pattern, and she would say, well perhaps this would be even better"."

The ground floor of the house, on the market for £8 million, has a creamy yellow drawing room to the left, knocked through to the back of to the right. The floor is covered in sisal matting. covered by muted, pettorned vi blue and white behavior once floral rugs in shades of green, a dark green billiand room pink, black and beige, bought at auction. The rugs proved the starting point for the drawing room's decorating

"I wanted it to be the sort of



Racehorse owner Robert Sangster and wife Susan have put their seven-bedroom house in London's Holland Park on the market at £8 million

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

up in, and it to not feel too formal." There are comfortable sofas and occasional tables smothered in glamorous family pictures.

Across the hall is a dining room-lined in midnight blue Benison fabric. "I always knew it was only going to be used in the evening, so I decided I would make a virtue of using a dark colour." Mrs

Her favourite room is her tolle de Jouy papered bluefirst floor next door to her with all the trimmings. The first floor has been given over to a series of interconnecting bedrooms, bathrooms and dressing rooms.

"I've got a television in one



cream wooden cupboards, with matching fabric behind

Upstairs is a floor of countrified spare bedrooms and bath-

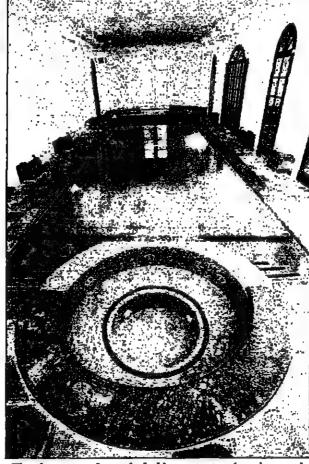
Mrs Sangster. The bath is in rooms, bottles of Evian and the centre of the room, there is Hilldown to the ready, apart a beautiful fireplace, and the from one room that has become Mrs Sangster's gym. with her exercise schedule on the wall. There is plenty of sophisticated, understated chintz and some nice wooden bedsteads. The top floor hosts the nursery, and there are some elegant staff bedrooms.

> lift whisks visitors to the basement, where the Sangsters have made the most profound structural changes. The kitchen was entirely rejigged: now it is a cosy affair on the street side of the house, complete with an Aga.

> The utility rooms were tucked under the pavement in what were originally coal holes when the house was built in 1890, and the former utility rooms made into a breakfast room. The changing

rooms were re-sited. There didn't seem much point to have changing rooms when our bedrooms were upstairs," Mrs Sangster says. "Oh, and I blocked in the wall to the pool, as no one likes being watched when they are swimming."

There is a playroom leading to the small garden at the



Floating asset: the secluded basement swimming pool

For the same sort of money, you could buy South Luffenham Hall a clessic eight-bedroom Carolean house, near Uppingham, Rutland. it comes with a sauna/gymnasium, tennis court, outbuildings and In Lancachire, you could afford Thurland Castle, a Grade II* listed

gardens, at Tunstall. It has five bedrooms, two self-contained apartments, a battroom, billiard room, library, stabling, coach house groom's flat and a three-bedroom lodge (Strutt & Parker, 01423 561274).

19th-century castle, surrounded by a most, in 13 acres of landscaped

An abundance of natural light makes a long, hot soak in this bath a particular luxury

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Stan Clarke, chair-

RICH PICKINGS AT A GALLOP

man of Newcastle and Uttoxeter race courses and rags-to-riches millionaire, bought £5 million Dunstall Hall. Staffs (right), in June. He had his first job, as a plumber, at the Grade II listed, tenbedroom house, which is set in 1,000 acres.



Dubai and racehorse owner, has a 60-bedroom complex (left) near Newmarket racecourse. The £50 million property, built in 1992, overlooks the trainers' track and includes a gymnasium, swimming pool and

Sheik Al Maktoum

the oil-rich ruler of

Claire Tomlinson, the leading women's polo player, plans to return to her Georgian farmhouse near Tetbury, Gloucestershire (right) in the next few weeks. The ten-bedroom. £750,000 property. with stabling, was destroyed by fire last year and has since been



FOR WEALTHY international buyers who may not be especially familiar with London but know a prime address when they see one, Holland Park is a perfect hunting ground.

In terms of typical priori-ties, the area offers a wide choice of family homes, good schools and the leafy delights of Holland Park, with Kensington Gardens still within Dalmatian-walking distance. Add to that easy access to the West End and City via the underground's Central Line, a short run out to Heathrow airport - and you begin to smell serious money.

The 19th-century doublefronted villas on Holland Park itself (Addison Road and Holland Villas Road) are among the largest houses in central London, with prices and cachet to match.

They range from 6,000 to 12,000 sq ft (Notting Hill, in contrast, boasts little more than 4,000 sq ft), and on the rare occasions that they come up for sale, can command anything from £5 million (needing attention) to £8

As Roddy Craggs of agent Knight Frank puts it: "There are probably no more than 20 people in London at any one time looking for that kind of house. Only two or three of these homes come up in a year, and they don't suit all

MARKET COMMENT



needs." But their rarity ensures a "waiting list". Part of the attraction is the

sheer expanse of ground they cover, in a city where space has always been at a premium; some have been split horizontally into vast "maisonettes", which still fetch £2 to £2.5 million.

"LATERAL living is big news at the moment," says Rupert Fisher of Poxtons. In comparison, the tall, narrow houses north of Holland Park Avenue on, for example, Portland Road and Queensdale Road, are "more suited for professional couples than families because they often only have small patio gardens and practically every room is on a different floor". Prices there for three bed-

back, but then the Sangsters

The only disappointment of

rather musty, rather small swimming pool. "Yes, that room does need decoration."

Mrs Sangster admits. And

there is no garage, usually a must at this level in the market

office. Mrs Sangster sighs: "I am sad to be leaving."

● Agent: Knight Frank, Kensington office (0171-938 4311)

The couple are looking for a Knightsbridge house more convenient for Mr Sangster's

also own a country house.

rooms, two bathrooms and an abundance of entertaining space range from £650,000 to £1.25 million.

Don't even think about Holland Park houses unless you have £500,000 to spend. That might buy you a small mews property, or a brick-fronted family home in the 1960s Woodsford Square development - "very good value but not perceived as architecturally beautiful", according to Mr Craggs.

PRICES slip to the north of Holland Park towards North Kensington, around Sirdar Road and St Ann's Road. where you can buy a modernised two-bedroom Victorian terraced house with garden for as little as £225,000; a four-bedroom house would set you back about £425,000.

The area to the west, bor-dering Brook Green around Elsham Road, is also good value. Here, a two-bedroom garden flat with a 60ft garden can be had from £180,000, as opposed to £350,000 a little further east in Holland Park and you get a residents' parking permit for Kensing-ton and Chelsea, says Rupert Fisher of Foxtons.

FAITH GLASGOW

CHANGING TIMES

一种主题的

Top dogs add bite to home sales

ndividuals sell houses, not firms. Last year. The Times compiled a list of the country's top estate agents, responding to readers' requests to name the stars behind the agencies' banners. This year the list reflects the fresh talent in the business, altered slightly to embrace a top five, and then the honourable mentions.

Choosing just five involved a lot of heart-searching, but those we've included as bubbling under should take pride in their status. Again, we worked with buying agents, firms that deal with estate agents on a daily basis, because they act for buyers. The buying agents Property Vision helped us, so did Bedrock International and London Property Search. Others helped, but asked for anonymity.

It has been a difficult year for agents. Prices have soured, yes, but agents rely on turnover to make their profit. The supply of houses for sale remains low. As Willie Gething, of Property Vision, says: "The market has been vendor-led. With so little property on the market, it takes an agent with courage to say: 'I'm afraid your house simply isn't worth it.'"

Inevitably, our list concentrates on the agents for more expensive houses, because they are the ones known to buying agents. Often the names mentioned here work closely with other agents, less widely recognised but just as effective. As Jan Hassel de Jong, of Bedrock International, explains: "Agents who work closely with one another can have a devastating impact."

Smaller agents also have stars among their staff. The best advice when choosing an agent to sell your house is to study the pictures in agents' windows and choose one with properties like yours.

There are more than a dozen new names on the block. These agents are renowned for getting the top price for properties, so bargain-seekers beware. The plus is that these names often have the best selection of houses on their books.

Because most agents work on commission on top of a basic salary, a good press is essential, especially where the market is competitive. In London, the top agencies share information after an initial "free for all".

BEST OF THE REST

IN THE "honourable mentions" category, women are better represented this year. Charlotte Mortimer, of Savilis (0171-730 0822), won her spurs as the woman to contact if you are selling a £500,000 property in Chelsea, while Louise Hewlitt, of Aylesford (0171-351 2383) was credited with "never giving up on a deal".

Dick Ford, of Knight Frank (0171-938 4311), the man behind the £20-million sale of Aubrey House earlier this month, also gained massive approval. He is particularly effective at selling prime property in central London.

Alan Russell, of Russell Simpson (0171-225 0277), again emerged as a top deal-maker. Andy Buchanan, of John D. Wood's Chelsea office (0171-352 1484), continues to receive praise, though the firm has been taken over by Hambro Countrywide Financial Services.

New to the list is Robert Trindle (0181-767 2222), whose specialist areas are Clapham and Wandsworth. Mr Trindle and his eponymous firm, with 20 years' experience, got top marks.
Still in Wandsworth, Rory Noz-

man, of John D. Wood (0181-87) 3033) is another new entrant. He has connections which make him an able operator. Howard Elston, of Strutt & Parker (0171-629 7282) is new, too - "reliable, shrewd and straightforward". Niall McMahon of McMahon & Co (0171-792 2037) dominates North Kensington and Notting Hill, with an unrivalled knowledge and expertise in

Fiona Walker works from Savills' Berkeley Street office (0171-499 8644), and was cited as



"unchallenged in her field", dealing with top-end country proper-

In the country, Tommy de Malet Morgan, of Savills, Guildford (01483 576551), easily defends his place on last year's list. Another noteworthy survivor is Michael de Pelet (01935 812236), who offers an excellent service in Dorset.

John Husband, of Humberts,

Lewes, East Sussex (01273 478828). retains his place among the elite. Patrick Bailey, of Strutt & Parker, Newbury, (01635 521707) specialises in Berkshire property. Also in Berkshire is the "excellent" Brenda Coates, of Dreweatt Neate (01635 38393). In Oxfordshire, Ian McCounell, of Savills, Banbury (01925 263535) was tipped as a cut

For property in Wiltshire, Graham Waterton, of Strutt & Parker. Salisbury (01722 328741) gets top

marks, while Atty Boer-Roberts, of Knight Frank (01285 659771), is recommended for property in Gloucestershire. In shire. Bidwell's Joek Lloyd-Jones in Trumpington (01223 841842), ranks highly. In Northamptonshire, those interested in smaller properties won't go far wrong with Richard Jones, of Jackson-Stops &

Staff (01604 32991).

Michael Dunning, of Lane Fox, Winchester, (01962 869999) was highly praised, as was Philip Blanchard, of John D. Wood's Winchester office (01962 863131). Further South, Conrad Payne, of

Cluttons Daniel Smith (01227 457441), was cited for his skills in and around Canterbury. In the Cotswolds, Harry Clegg, of Clegg Kennedy Drew (01608 810335), is a new name, recom-

mended for selling farms or estates

up to and above the £1 million

mark. Robin Thomas, of Strutt & Parker, Exeter (01392 215631), covers Devon, Cornwall and parts of Somerset. Also in Somerset, try Richard Pawson, of Humberts (01323 288484).

(01823 28848).

Ian Stirling, of Lane Fox, Ban-bury, (01295 273 592), has been described as "the best agent in north Oxfordshire". In Exeter, Martin Lamb, of Knight Frank (01392 493101) is highly recommended — again, as is newcomer Tim Page-Ratcliffe, of Strutt & Parker, Lewes (01273 475411).

There are new faces making an impact in Kent, where Martyn Phillips, of Phillips & Stubbs (01797 227338), scored top marks, while in Towcester, Northamptonshire. Peter Evans, of Bartram & Co (01327 359164), is noted as a significant threat to rival firms.

lan Stewart of Savills (0171-409

running, his knowledge of the Home Counties said to be unrivalled, while the top man in the shires is Geoffrey van Custem, of Savills, Chelmsford (0171-409 8880).

FURTHER NORTH, Tim Blenkin. of Bienkin & Co (01904 671672), works with Knight Frank, and is the person to contact for expensive estate sales in Yorkshire, especially in the Humbleton and Howardian Hill area. There were honourable mentions

too, for Tim Waring and Tony Wright, of Carter Jonas in Harrogate. (01423 523423). Edward Waterson, of Carter Jonas, York (01904 627436), was another agent collecting compliments. Scotland is better represented

this year. James Carnegie-Arbathnott, of Brodles (0131-228 8883) was cited as "an exceptional 3777), is another new name, who

STAR PERFORMERS

Clockwise from top left:

THE BORDER COLLIE Patrick Ramsey, a partner at Knight Frank (0171-629 8171). Helped the agency put most of the top houses on its books, including Hackwood in Hampshire for £25 million. An Old Amplefordian, married with three children. At home in the Home Counties.

THE DALMATIAN Andrew Langton, of the Chelsen agents Aylesfords (0171-351,2883), Has unrivalled contacts. Son of David Langton, the star of Upstairs, Downstairs, he is one of the smoothest operators around. Has three children.

■ THE LABRADOR Linda Beaney of Beuney Pearce (0171-589 1339). With partner Nick Pearce, has cornered much of the market in new developments. Lives in Chelsea and is renovating an 18th-century Essex cottage. Professional and dedicated.

■ The English springer James Laing, head of the rural division at Strutt & Parker (01635 521707).

Cirencester Agricultural College graduate, he has sold many of the country's finest estates. Lives in Berkshire and has two children. Sociable and loyal.

THE JACK RUSSELL David Forbes, partner in central London agents Chesterfield (0171-581 5234). The man behind several of this year's biggest sales. He served with the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles in Asia before becoming a trekker in the Himalayas. Determined and

comes highly recommended for anyone wishing to sell estates in and around Edinburgh. Simon Rettie, of Rettie & Co (0131-220) 4160), is another rising star, adept at finding houses in Edinburgh from £150,000.

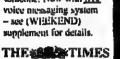
Other top Scottish agents include Andrew Rettie, of Strutt & Parker (0131-226 2500), highly recommended for anything between £150,000 and El million; Jamie Macnab, of Savills (0131-247 3800); and Colin Strang-Steel, of Knight Frank (0131-225 8171), all of Edinburgh.

Angus Cheape, of Langley Tay-lor (0131-220 0576), once again drew warm reviews. Niall Graham-Campbell is from Finlayson Hughes (01738 625134), the only agency to have an office in Inverness. He has carved out a niche selling Highland estates.

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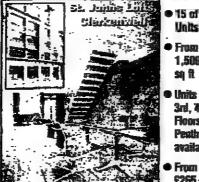
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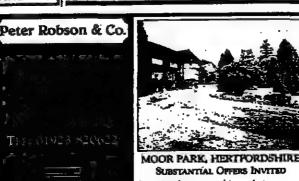
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'A swift change in the lottery rules is needed if conservationists are to make the most of the handouts'

The story that follows is happening on my own doorstep, but I would bet my last lottery ticket that it is also happening somewhere near you. It is a tale of dreams come true, magic

wands being waved and wishes granted - and it all ending in tears. I have always been a great supporter of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, indeed all county-based wildlife trusts which derive their income from membership fees, fundraising and modest help from English Nature. Of all conservation groups, they view the landscape with a breadth of vision that more narrowly focused (and richer) charities seem unable to achieve. They do not consider only birds, mammals, the butterflies or the buttercups in isolation but the whole lot of them. Which has to be good news, if

ing scheme dedicated to your survival. So, over the past couple of years it has been with great delight that I picked up the local newspaper to learn that our wildlife trust, among others, has been on

you happen to be a hairy but rare spider

who has none of the beguiling qualities to

elevate you to having a tea-towel market-

Why payouts don't always pay off

the receiving end of some very nice are down 25 per cent. lottery handouts. The total so far is about It is much the same E) million, destined to help in the construction of education centres and the purchasing of valuable and endangered sites from under the noses of developers or acquisitive farmers.

Good stuff, you might say. Alas, not so. Along with many others, our wildlife trust is now finding that, although a lottery handout may appear to be a blessing from heaven, it brings a hell of a lot of problems.

For a start, supporters who might have trudged along to a fundraising coffee morning or jumble sale now believe that the few pence they spend is insignificant compared with the huge sums awarded by the lottery, so they no longer bother. Members fail to renew subscriptions, thankful that the lottery has taken over responsibility for the wildlife, and so they need not bother. In our county, donations

everywhere.

It gets worse. The money is not necessarily helping the trusts achieve what they were set up to do: conserve nature in all its forms. Our local director. Derek Moore, warns: "We are in danger of creating thousands of white elephants.'

White elephants, of course, are one type of wildlife whose survival and prolific breeding is never endangered in Britain. Let me explain how they are born, of public money and limited thought. It is not always understood, even by some wildlife trust supporters, that mere

DOWN TO EARTH



way guarantee its survival. Mr Moore points out that conservation requires action; inaction leads only to dereliction. It is all very well to buy 15 acres of water meadow bursting with every form of rare bog plant and insect, but it is another thing making sure it stays that

way. It needs to be grazed, for example, which requires it to be fenced, livestock brought in and cared for, access for walkers to be arranged, vandals to be discouraged, neighbours to be negotiated with, weeds to be mown, chemicals avoided. Do none of these

ownership of some-thing does not in any and it will not be long before the first and it will not be long before the first rusty bedstead or broken fridge appears over the fence.

It is not the ownership of the water meadow which will keep it as we wish to see it - and the way the flora and fauna prefer it — but a regular input of labour, both behind a desk in the office and on the land itself.

nd this is where the lottery lets wildlife down badly. And why, if A there is not a swift change in the rules, much of the money handed out with the best of intentions for conservation will fund nothing more exciting than shabby tracts of countryside in the new millennium.

The problem has been pointed out many times, not least by the performing arts. The lottery is unable, because of its rules, to pay anyone's wages. It can fund

capital projects, such as buying land, but the money cannot be used to employ someone to look after it. "All the money we get," Mr Moore explained to me, rebounds on the staff. They have more to manage but we have no money to employ any more people to help them. As well as being able to buy the land, we need a framework in which we can keep

I am not certain how it came to be that lottery money should never be allowed into workers' pockets. But who would object nowadays, especially in Mr Blair's people-centred Britain?

Would anyone really complain if it were widely known that the owl warden down at Buttercup Fen was paid for out of lottery money, instead of drawing the dole? If it needed a shepherd to husband a flock of grazing sheep, would you really mind if part of the money was spent on paying him or her?

Nobody is asking for more of the lottery money; just a stroke of the pen, so that wildlife trusts can spend it more sensibly. Otherwise it is like buying a car and flatly refusing to pay for the petrol.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters, of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, I Penumeran Street, Litudox EL 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the manth.



A countryman dressed to kill: many of today's shooters are businessmen on a corporate day out

Bang goes the old sport

few years after perfecting the art of the company takeover, and many years on from his childhood in the East End of London, the late Charlie Clore was invited to shoot at Blenheim. On the appointed day, things went well enough, until Clore sent a message to his host ("Bert", the 10th Duke of Mariborough). Would it be possible. Clore asked, for his instructor, a retired major who was acting as a loader, to lunch with the guns rather than the beaters?

"Teaching Clore to eat as well, is he?" Marlborough muttered in

response. A generation on, Clore might have felt more at ease with the new breed of businessmen at shoots. "I have seen one instance of a big deal being done in between two grouse drives," says a north country landowner.
This chap was selling his milk business for more than £20 million. It

went through on the moor."

Once disdainful of Clore and his ilk - often caricatured by the unwelcome shrill of the mobile phone on the moor - the grandees are now more or less equivocal: the gatecrasher, they have concluded, has his uses. He can, for a start, pay the price good shooting demands: £20-£25 a head per pheasant, or £80-£100 per brace

unashamedly use their companies as a means by which to mix business with pleasure.

"It can be banks, it can be estate agents who take a day," says the northern landowner. "In fact, you'd be hard pressed to find a bank which hasn't taken a corporate day in the past ten years. It's a fabulous way to entertain people. And from our point of view, if you can call it corporate enterminment you can legitimately claim back back VAT - 172 per cent on El0,000; it's worth doing, particularly on a big grouse day."

But today's corporate shoots are different to those of the late-Eightles Porsche-and-braces peak. It is unlikely anyone in the City now can trump the stories such as that told (in

Marcus Scriven

reports on the fast-changing world of the

corporate shoot

his book Fiasco) by Frank Partney, a former derivatives trader on Wall Street, of how directors of Morgan Stanley treated themselves to a dove

Shoot in Uruguay.

Deutsche Bank Group, the parent company of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, has its own partridge shoot in Spain, said, by some, to be one of the best in the country. The bank also takes on several days' shooting in Britain each year.

t is hard to imagine any landowner belittling the contribu-tion corporate shooting can make to his estate's accounts; indeed, without it, he would be hardpressed to offer anywhere near as many days' shooting to friends and

But there is a price to be paid for having those along who are unfamil-Better still, from the landowners' lat with the ways of the country memorable corporate day in Bedfordshire recently. "The first drive had some partridge in it." he recalls. "One went out quite low and left. The ieft-hand gun shot at it, missed, and took out the back window of a Range Rover, which rather surprised the woman sitting inside.

"The gun," he says, "admitted that he would have pretended that it was somebody else, except that was the only shot fired in the entire drive." Later, there were lots of jokes about putting the Range Rover on the game card. But the barrister adds: "When I

was young, you'd have been sent home for that. In these days of corporate shooting, it's just a laugh."

The owner of a comparatively small shoot in Shropshire discovered



The aim is a satisfying bag

the difference between the corporate and private worlds when partridge shooting with clients in Cambridge. iling myseli face down into the field," he says. "The gon to the side of me followed straight through the line."

It proved a formative experience. "I now invite clients I know can shoot," he says, "and I take them somewhere nice and quiet, not to one of the big corporate shoots."

But it would not be accurate to portray the contemporary shooting man as some kind of gun-crazed parvenu, who only ventures out of town to splash his boots with mud and spray the air with shot, just as it would be absurd to preserve the myth of his prewar predecessor, his sporting prowess matched by his pedigree

and eclipsed by his stupidity.

The truth is that shooters are probably a more eclectic bunch than

ever before; and most of the novices will, like Charles Clore before them, have taken care to receive good instruction (in London, probably at Holland & Holland's shooting grounds at Northwood).

You've got the old aristo brigade," one privileged gun says, "then you've got the bankers who spend hundreds of thousands of pounds; then you've got these little syndicates of the butcher, the baker and the candlestick-maker."

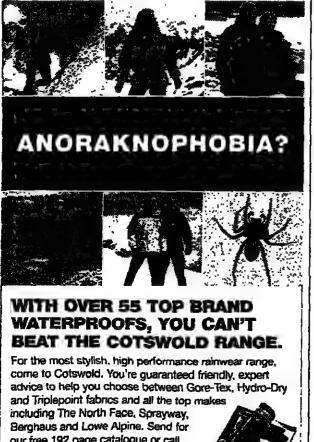
Perhaps there is no more vivid exemplar of the first group than Lord Lambton, who returns to Biddick Hall at Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, from Tuscany for a few days' sport, wearing his dark glasses and only stirring himself from his shooting stick for a particularly high bird.

But even Lord Lambton, who sometimes seems to have strayed from an Edward St. Aubyn novel, has never flinched from making money from shooting, letting Biddick to super-rich tenants such as Alfred Taubman, the owner of Sotheby's. They don't care what they're charged providing it's good," says one of Lord Lambion's guests. The over-ecuberant shot is nothing

new. A septuagenarian recalls a story, doubtless apocryphal, concerning a youthful Lord Forte shooting partridge near London. His performance was said to have been erratic. Tine lollowing Monday, there meant to be six guns, but when he arrived, he was the only one there."

His son, Rocco Forte, by comparison, is considered an excellent shot and an exemplary host -- testimony. perhaps, to the power of shooting to affect the perfect evolution, from deal-? maker to sportsman, within a generation or two. "He loves it with a passion," says one of his guests. "I think it's the only thing he is passionate about really."

Perhaps the same was true of Sir Charles Clore, who, notwithstanding his experiences at Blenheim, felt assured enough to run his own estate. In the eight years up to and including 1978, 42,595 peasants were shot on his land in Berkshire. And there, his table manners were his own affair.



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Is it a man or a mountain? lexander Stoddart, one

of Scotland's finest monumental sculptors. recently unveiled a two-ton bronze of the Scots philos-

opher David Hume in the heart of Edinburgh. million visitors a year. But if his next project goes ahead it will dwarf anything he has done before. He plans to create a vast mountain sculpture on the magnificent Ben Bruachan massif in the Highlands which will be visible for miles around. The 1927 and 1941. reclining figure of Oscar, dead son of Ossian, a legendary Gaelic warrior poet, will be

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The second secon

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half a mile long and a quarter of a mile high.
It would cost millions and take up to 50 years to complete, but would be Europe's biggest sculpture and a new wonder of the world on the scale of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial, in South

Scotland may soon have its own Mount Rushmore, Andrew Morgan writes

Dakota, which attracts two

Ben Cruachan, to the east of Oban, is known as "the supreme mountain of Argyli" and its granite has a similar density to Mount Rushmore, where the four presidential heads were carved between Ossian gained renewed

fame in Europe in 1762 when the Scotnish poet, James Mac-pherson, published what is claimed to be translations of his 3rd-century poems. Goethe became an admirer but, because of anti-Scots feeling in England, the poems were deemed fraudulent. London literati found it inconceivable that epic poetry could have

originated among the barbarian Scots. Stoddart, 38, a passionate Scottish nationalist, says:

Carving the mountain in Ossianic terms will be a way of insisting on the truth of the heroic capacities of Scotland." Politicians at Argyll and Bute Council are enthusiastic about Stoddart's vision, which would bring much-needed employment to the area. Local

sculptors or to carry out the task of shifting rock. Campbell Cameron, a councillor in the area, is thrilled. "It's remarkable there are still people with such visionary dreams," he says.

people could be trained as

There remains, however,



An artist's impression of the son of Ossian sculpture

the question of landowners' permission. Several own the massif and the one owning Stoddart's preferred site says that, while sympathetic, he fears the intrusion.

Dianne Stein, one of Scotland's foremost arts fundraisers, is confident that millions could be put in the hat for such a grand project from lottery and millennium cash and enterprise funding. The project would take long-

er than at Mount Rushmore, with its benign climate, where the sculptor, Gutzon Borglum, and his team created the 60ft heads of presidents George Washington. Thomas Jeffer-son. Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt.

Stoddart says: "I hope to see part of the project completed. The Rushmore sculptor didn't live to see his work completed, but I'd die happy if everything were set up."



Sculptor Alexander Stoddart





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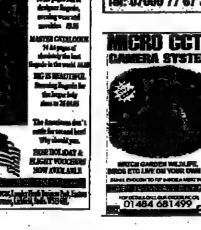
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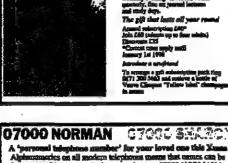
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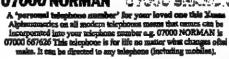




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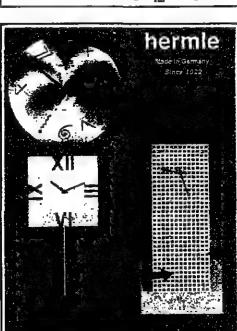


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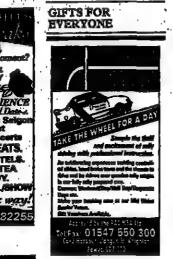
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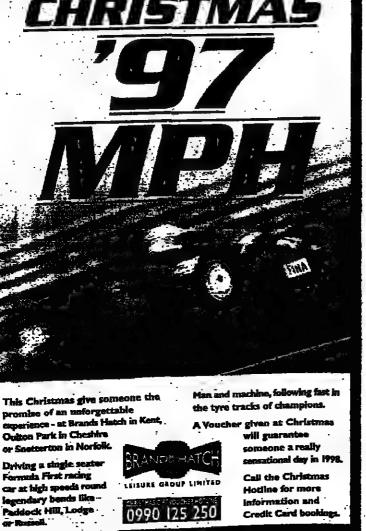


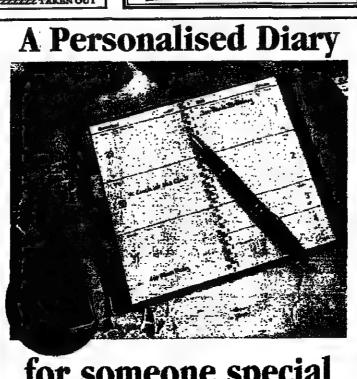


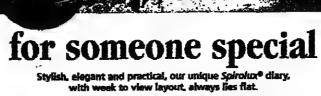












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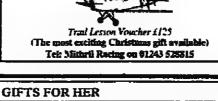
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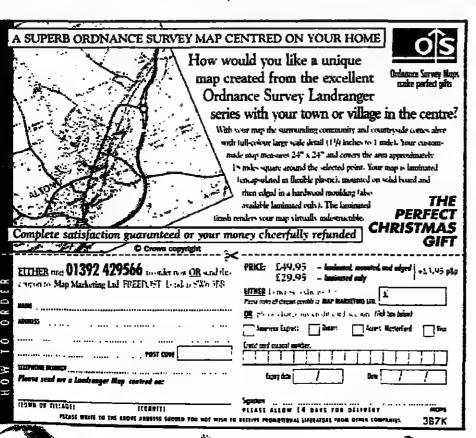
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Shubert's 150th Anniversary: Dys-lexia. a practical approach. Both this weekend at Braziers, Ipsden. Wallingford, Oxon (0149) 680221).

Late Autumn Bird Weekend: Improve Your Photography, Water-colours for Near-Beginners. All this weekend at the Flatford Mill Field Study Centre (01206 298283) at East Bergholt in Constable Country, From £79-102, inclusive. A Writers' Workshop; Christmas Quilting: Straw Lacework; Landscapes in Watercolour. All this weekend at the Hill Residential College. Abergavenny. Gwent. (01495 333777). Price £88, inclusive. Stepping out for Samarkand, a writing course; Getting the Most from your Portable Computer: Diaghaley and the Ballet Russe; A Taste of Wines from the American Continent; Knotting in Embroidery. Modern Painting Series 2—

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of the Middle Ages. At the University of Oxford, Dept of Continuing Education, Rewley House (01865 270360). Price £44.

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tion. At the Ammerdown Centre, Bath, Avon (01761 433709). Prices from £69, all-inclusive.

The Natural History of Christ-mas, Winter Walks. Two outdoor



The Music of Spain, Two lively courses this weekend at the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Sussex (01798) 865306), From El14. Handmade Chocolates for Christmas, A Christmas Bridge Party, Competitive Duplicate Bridge with partners for singles: Painting on Silk; You Too Can Sing. All this weekend at the Earnley Con-course, Chichester, Sussex (01243 670392). Price per course, E142 residential. E98 non-residential.

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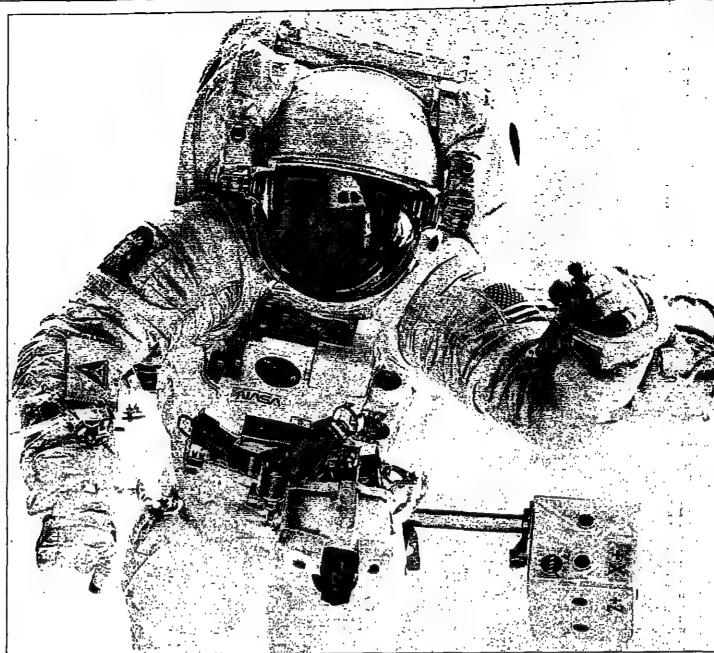
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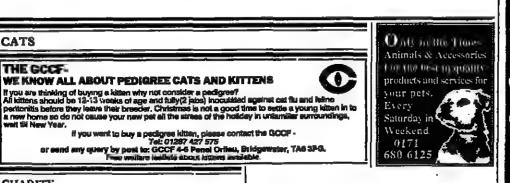
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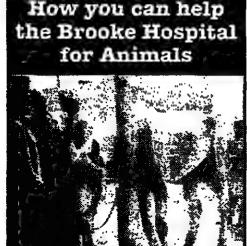
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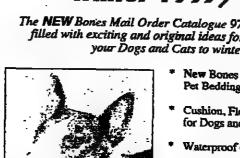
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A VET WRITES

Our three-year-old Bur-

mese cat lived indoors

All too soon those little iguanas, crocodiles and snakes outgrow the spare bedroom, says Carol Price

Help, my pet python is trying to eat me

ften when I answer the phone, there'll be someone screaming in the background, Sarah Beales says. "The other night it was a man whose oft rock python, having bitten him, was trying to coil round and constrict him."

The snake's attack was a feeding response—but it had to go, says Ms.
Beales, of the Proteus Reptile

"In fact, oft is quite small for a rock python," she says. "They can grow to more than 20ft and are notoriously . temperamental and

Unfortunately, this is not the sort of thing that many would-be reptile owners know — or are made aware of — when they first glimpse that cute little hatchling in the pet shop. Once they discover that the

apparently easy pet which never needs walkies or elaborate grooming grows and grows — iguanas, for example, can expand from 6in to 6ft in five years and have antisocial habits and rather specialised needs

— the fun of reptiles and turtles seems to pall.

Hundreds of thousands of reptiles are being discarded every year, presenting a crisis for their rescuers. Protein alone rescues about 1,000 cold-blooded cast-offs a year from all over the country — be they terrapins from Teesside, Burmese pythons from Scotland or iguanas which have have run amok in

One of Broteus's more bizarre acquisitions was Amy the specta-cled caymar — a 5 aft-long croco-dile which had been kept in a Bedford family's spare bedroom for

They were very fond of it, but it had outgrown its tanks and its welcome." Ms Beales says.



Cold-blooded creatures who may not be easy to live with: green iguana, above, pet python, right, cuddles up to the voungest member of the family

Proteus is keeping Amy in a 500-gallou heated pool, where she dines daily on rats, rabbits and chicks which you can buy frozen in bags from reptile stores, just like chicken

As expensive guests go, Amy is just one of a never-ending line. "Even when we emphasise that we're completely full," Ms Beales says, "the next morning we'll find a rucksack full of snakes, turtles or lizards dumped on our doorstep."

London Zoo is being similarly inundated, "Hardly a week goes by when we don't get offered people's unwanted pets," says Dr Heather Hall, the zoo's expert on reptiles and amphiblans. The donors think they're doing us a favour, but we're in the business of conserving species, not rehousing them.



"People don't realise how big things like reptiles and turtles can grow, or how long they grow very can live — well up to 30 ears, which outlives large and their role as children's pets. And their living can live environment, in terms o heat, light and humidity for up to levels, must be exactly correct, as must their 30 years'

diet, or they will get stressed and sick." Dr Hall and the Pet Advisory Committee are trying to predators. Fed-up owners then repromote a better understanding of leased them into lakes and rivers, more exotic creatures and their welfare among pet shop stores and managers - many of whom seem ignorant of their needs. Other

people seem more interested in

cashing in on a passing 'Reptiles trend, with catastrophic

"About seven years ago, when the Ninja turtle craze exploded, everybody wanted to buy the equivalent red-cared terrapins from America," Dr Hall says. "They grew from the size of a 10p piece to that of a dinner plate, and became extremely aggressive and voracious

even though it's Illegal and highly

"Now they are chomping their way through all manner of native species — fish, frogs, ducklings and



Australia; red-cared terrapin, below, imported from America



anything else that moves - right across Europe.

Iguanas can also turn nasty. "The trouble is really with the males when their breeding season arrives from February to July." Ms Beales says. Then they go from green to an orangey colour and basically want to mate with anything, should a female iguana not be available furniture, cushions, owners, you name it. Six foot of iguana hanging off your neck by its teeth and attempting to mate with you can freak out a lot of owners."

Ms Beales and her colleagues have 30 male iguanas on a waiting list for rehoming, "so we were hardly glad to hear that another 20,000 iguanas have just been imported into this country from South America".

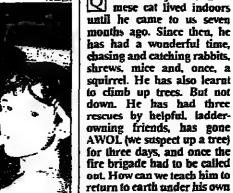
Ms Beales also warns against people who call themselves "reptile rescue agencies" but make a business out of getting unwanted pets free to sell them on. "Too many people think reptiles are pets you can easily replace, should they get sick or tiresome," she says. wrong to think you can keep them properly on the cheap."

he gave a rough estimate of the costs you could expect to the costs you could expect to pay: "A small lizard might cost £7.50, or a baby python £25, but then you have to buy a decent enclosure that can cost £50 to £2,000, and spend at least another £100 for a thermostat, ultraviolet lights and fittings plus a heater. Sometimes we get reptiles in with terrible burns just because owners couldn't be bothered to spend £2.50 on a heater guard."

Despite the neglect and ignorance of some owners, both Ms Beales and Dr Hall concede that a great many people do look after their reptiles extremely well. But their success is the result of tremendous effort, education and commitment.

Those who lack the time or will for all three may be better off with something simpler like goldfish which, thankfully, have never been known to swing off your neck by

● Proteus Reptile Rescue (0121-384 6033) offers reptile advice but needs donations to continue its work London Zoo (017)-722 3333) has leaflets on exotica at E1 each.



A I am sure your Burmese is enjoying his newfound freedom and I am just as sure that he will find his way down from the highest tree if he is left to his own devices. Rescuers, be they professional firefighters or enthusiastic amateurs, don't help. He is much more likely to fall and injure himself with human help than if he is left to his own devices. If he appears to be trapped up a tree, wait until it is dark, then use a powerful torch to encourage him to follow the beam down from one branch to another. Or just ignore him. Many years ago, one of my cats had an insatiable ambition to get on to the roof of our bungalow.

I climbed a ladder and "rescued" him a score of times. Then I got fed up and this coincided with his learning how to get down on his own. suspect your cat will respond in the same way.

steam — or stop him climbing trees in the first place?

We have just moved to an old farm with a paddock and a large pond, nearly half an acre. We would like to keep ducks and



Make sure your ducks are safe from foxes

perhaps some ornamental water fowl. We have always kept pets but don't know much about birds outdoors.

A You have the beginnings of a paradise for ducks: space and water. Start in the spring with one of the "common" breeds: Aylesbury, Khaki Campbell or Muscovy. They will need a daily feed of cereal mixture from the local corn merchants. Evening is the best feeding time, to persuade them to come home, and the dining area should be close to the pond. Do not encourage ducks to come to your back door. Duck droppings are profuse, liquid and smelly. Shutting ducks in a substantial wooden shed overnight, with straw for bedding. helps to foil foxes. And if you want eggs, let the birds have a lie-in. Ducks lay in the early morning, so by loam there are eggs on the floor waiting to be collected. An alternative antifox system is a raft with a basic shelter and a few water plants. Attach a rope to each bank so it can be brought to the shore or towed to mid-pond. Ducks sleeping or nesting on this platform are quite safe.

I live in an isolated cottage and I have been burgled twice. I have heard about wolf hybrids - crosses between wolves and German shepherd dogs. Are there any special difficulties about keeping them?

A Before buying a wolf hybrid you need a licence under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act. This requires the local council to be satisfied that you will keep the wolf hybrid in an adequate, escape-proof kennel and run: that you have third-party in-surance, and that your premises are inspected every year by a vet and an officer of the council. The licence fee and insurance can cost £200 a year. A wolf hybrid cannot be kept as a house dog, or taken for a walk on a lead. I do not know why anyone breeds them. Too many finish up having a boring, lonely life. The best guard dog is one that barks when a stranger approaches, but is friendly and affectionate. The only risk is that he - or she - might lick an intruder to death. But a burglar cannot be sure and the bark is enough to persuade most potential intruders to try their luck elsewhere.

JAMES ALLCOCK

Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9), N. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.

This cat lady wears a dog collar his book: "She had a long, skinny body and thin, crooked

he world of Philip Gonzalez is populated by dozens of colourful characters, such as the flirtatious one-eyed, redhead Revion; the paranoisc Vogue Madame, the deaf snow-white beauty; the crippled Betty Boop; the Count of Monte Cristo, an aristocratic Russian; the monstrous Napoleon; and Prince Philip, who is infected with Aids.

At four every morning and seven every evening, the hum-ble Puerto Rican-born New Yorker makes his rounds of the back alleys of Long Beach. Long Island, to feed 140 stray cats. Those who eat in the backyard of a friendly local house he has given Viking names: Thor, Eric the Red, Oscod and so on. On the Osgod and so on. On the wasteland nearby are the painters: Dalí, Picasso. Grandma Moses and Peter Max. On the traffic island live the Cowleys and Indians: John Wayne, Roy Rogers, Crazy Hoise and Sitting Bull. Then there is the scrub land called Paradise, inhabited by Rhett and Scarlett, Aunt Jernima, Unrie Ben and Van Gogh. Mr Conzalez, 47, is a grizzied Vietnam veteran who used to practise martial arts

until helost the use of his right arm in an industrial accident. But he has the gentleness of St Francis of Assisi, and the same affinity with the animal world. He lives a simple existence on his disability allowance in a modest frst-floor flat near the Atlantic Ocean, which he shares with 21 cats and his best friend, Gnny, a dog.

However, Ginny is not just any dog. The straggly little cross-breed, whom Mr Gonzalez saved from an animal shelter, is now one of the most famous cogs in America. Mr Gonzalez sees her as "part

James Bone meets a one of

America's most famous dogs and

her posse of rescued cats



Stray cats are rescued in Mr Gonzalez's nightly patrols

schnauzer, part Siberian hus-ky, part angel from heaven", and credits her with giving him a purpose in life. For

Ginny is The Dog Who Rescues Cats — the title of Mr Gonzalez's biography of his extraordinary pet, which has just been published in Britain after becoming a bestseller in the United States. Ginny has a remarkable ability to seek out and rescue stray cats, whom she then adopts as though she were a feline herself. It was

ADOPT ME -

REX is a three-year-old greyhound-cross-labrador who was brought into the RSPCA after his owner developed health problems and could no longer keep him. He is playful, but gentle with children and other dogs and would make a good family pet. If you are interested in adopting Rex, please contact the RSPCA Mayhew Animal Centre (0181-969 0178).

Ginny who brought all the cats into her master's life. "I think she was either

raised by cats, or maybe in a previous life she was a cat, or she could have been a cat-lady, feeding strays," Mr Gonzalez says. "It really impresses me. She gets extremely persistent when she sees a cat." In February 1991, a pipe-

cutting machine at a building site where he was working nearly chewed off Mr Gonzalez's right arm. No longer able to work, he retreated into himself. Concerned that he was sinking into depression, his neighbour, Sheilah Harris, persuaded him to visit the local animal shelter. A dog, she thought, would at least get him out of the house.

The former soldier wanted a "big dog" that other people would envy. Inside a cage he saw what he thought was a German shepherd puppy. The vet informed him, however, that the dog was a year-old mother who had recently been spayed, and was a mixed breed that had already reached its full size. Nevertheless, it was love at first sight. As Mr Gonzalez recalls in

had the most appealing face I'd ever seen, bright and intelligent and curious and sweet, all at the same time." Even with a published biography, Ginny's life story will never be fully known. Origi-nally, she belonged to a

legs, which were oddly matched to the broad-shoul-

dered front of her . . . That dog

woman with three children who spent her welfare cheque on drugs. When the woman was evicted from her flat, the landlord found a scruffy, emaciated Ginny locked in the cupboard nursing a litter of three pups. The woman had left the dogs to die. Mr Gonzalez identified with this wounded animal. Like her, he had been badly hurt. Yet she, who had suffered not merely an accident but deliberate human neglect, held no ran-

itting on his balcony, Mr Gonzalez admits that Ginny changed his life. "I was just staying indoors, really completely depressed, and then I got Ginny and started going out and then saving the cats gave me a purpose," he says. "She saved me. I was her first

Not only does Ginny still yap contentedly at his ankles as his cats swarm around his feet, but the gutter above his head is lined with pigeons who know they can depend on him for a meal of dried cat-food. Lurking somewhere nearby are the raccoons and opossums that he also feeds on the

balcony at night. Ginny first revealed her talent for rescuing disabled cats during a walk early one morning. Passing an empty lot, she flew off her lead and ran towards a golden kitten. Instead of mauling the little stray, Ginny started licking it like a mother, making the cat purr happily. At one point, the kitten actually jumped on Ginny's back for a ride.

Sensing that Ginny wanted to feed her new friend, Mr Gonzalez opened a can of dogfood. That was the start of a new vocation that now costs him \$120 a day in cat-food alone, and can require thousands more to pay the vet. For instance, he spent \$4,200 on surgery for the Count of

Night after night, day after day, Ginny and her master



Made for each other. Ginny the mongrel and her owner share a flat with 21 cats

patrol the backstreets of their neighbourhood, retrieving stray cats. First, the deaf Madame moved in to Mr Gonzalez's one-bedroom flat. Then Vogue, Revion, Betty Boop and Topsy, who suffers from cerebral palsy, and Tiger, Spot, Caesar, Pinky and Princess, and Sheha (who became Solomon when it became apparent "she" was a tom-cat) and the two cats called Camus, and Darlene and the rest.

Ginny's story first came to the public's attention when Mr Gonzalez went to an evening class in Manhattan on "How to Talk to Your Cat". Betty Boop, named after an American cartoon character, was refusing to use the cat litter and was urinating on the carpet. Mr Gonzalez wanted to find out why. (It turned out that she had injured back

paws which hurt when she

trod on cat litter.) Carol Wilbourn, a "cat therapist", asked the class how many cats they each had at home. Mr Gonzalez confessed that he had eight, because his dog kept rescuing

Ms Wilbourn told a friend at Good Housekeeping magazine, who sent a reporter and photographer. The article, published in June 1994, prompted the book, co-written with Leonore Fleischer, which has now gone through ten printings in America and been followed by a sequel, The Blessing of the Animals. Mr Gonzalez recently signed a contract to turn Ginny's story into a Hollywood film.

The day I visited Mr Gonzalez, he had just saved a litter of five kittens from an early death at the hands of a local vet. With typical aplomb, he named them after the Marx Brothers: Harpo, Chico,

Gummo, Zeppo and Groucho. "Every time I help one out, I feel stronger inside, especially when I save a life." he declared.

Later, we took Ginny for a walk to the Paradise scrubland. Loosed from her lead, the little mongrel galloped through the grass towards a tri-coloured calico cat who came to greet her. The stray was Van Gogh - although he must have been an early Van Gogh because he still had both ears. The two kissed nose to nose and then Van Gogh settled down for Ginny to groom him.

"If people got along the way Ginny gets along with cats." Mr Conzalez observes, "there wouldn't be any wars and the world would be a much happier place."

■ The Dog Who Rescues Cats is published by Simon & Schuster, ● Write to The Times Vet,

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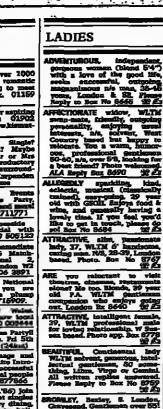
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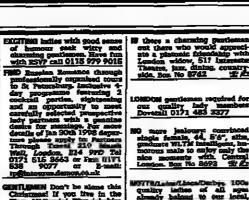
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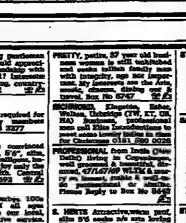
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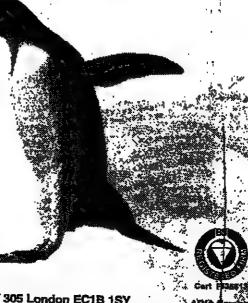
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Pixie-like but determined

t is claimed to be the original Garden of Eden it is the land of Mount Ararat, the 17,000-foot peak where Noah's Ark came to rest and it was the world's first officially Christian state.

Armenia, first evangelised by the apostles Bartholomew and Thaddeus, became Christian in 301 thanks to St Gregory, who arrived from Caesarea, converted the King after 15 years of imprison-ment, and became known by Armenians as the "Great Illuminator".

This month, the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church visited the Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr George Carey. His Holiness Karekin I, born Neshan Sarkissian in north-ern Syria, studied theology at Oxford and is fluent in English, Armenian, French, Arabic and Turkish.

The first thing you notice about him is his black Armenian pointed cowl, which gives Karekin a rather pixie-like demeanour. It is called an "ararat", he explains. "It is worn so that the devil cannot dance on your head."

Catholicos Karekin, 65, has the air of a prophet issuing stark warnings about the about the advance of material-ism. "Secularism and consumerism are reaching extremes where God is being chiminated from the concept of life itself."

Karekin is steeped in the history of his nation and his church, a church which split from what became mainstream Christendom because its leaders were unable to attend a crucial conference. the Council of Chalcedon, in 451 when Armenia was being invaded by hordes of Zoroas-

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Their absence meant that, along with some of the world's oldest churches, they have stuck to the credal definition of God Christ worked out at Ephesus two years earlier, "one nature united in the Word Incarnate", leaving the rest of us to grapple with the Trinity, The Armenians can-

Religion has often served social and political functions. As such, it has been celebrated by

partisans of both right and left. Social

conservatives recognise the value of a

sense of the transcendent in sustain-

ing those pictics towards the past and

obligations to the future that are essential it traditional morality and

invoke Judaeo-Christian Ideals of

universal brotherhood and care for

the disadvantaged against the politics

ideas can quite properly be invoked in support of social philosophics, and

the previous appeals are interesting

examples of this, but religion is not

This is all well and good. Religious

of possessive individualism.

Karekin I, head of the Armenian Church, is a man with a mission to save his embattled people



not be neatly labelled Ortho-dox, Catholic, Monophysite or anything else. They can only be called Christian.

Karekin's eyes twinkle as he sits in the sumptuous surroundings of Lambeth Palace - despite being one of the oldest in the business, the Armenian church is extremely close to the Church of England, one of the youngest.

e speaks sadly, but without bitterness, of the decades of . communist rule — Armenia was swallowed up by the former Soviet Union after centuries of oppression by the neighbouring Turks and oth-ers. He also warns that Europe has been at the centre of a "world quake", that so much has changed in the past 15 years that we are all falling victim to a sort of mental and spiritual indigestion.

Armenia was formerly a Soviet Socialist Republic, Before that it was variously subject to to Tsarist, Ottoman and Turkish rule. It has been in the news recently because of more fighting, this time over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh which the Armenians, who have lost so much, could be forgiven for wanting to hang on to.

Karekin does not beat the nationalist drum. Not a single anti-Turkish sentiment leaves his lips, even though in the

early years of this century thousands of Armenians were massacred, and a third of all Armenians were enterminated by the Turks in the First World War. And in spite of the troubles of the Lebanon, his years spent there leading, comforting and supporting his expatriate community, have not deflected him from his primary mission: to renew the life of his church by relating gospel teachings to the 6.5 million Armenians who make

up his flock. Centuries of persecution resulted in a diaspora which has seen millions of Armenians living abroad, in America, France, Britain and elsewhere. But they have remained socially and culturally united, a cohesion credited to the Armenian church - which also helped in the home country during the communist years.

Karekin says: "Now that there, is a disenchantment about communism, the Christian faith is the deepest inspiration of the people. It is in their history. Whenever they read their history, whatever page or stone they turn, there is the Christian imprint. It is impossible to speak of Armenian culture without speaking of the Christian faith."

Of all the world's church leaders, Catholicos Karekin has proved himself one of the unity of the gospel commands. His concern about the advance of materialism, the latest army to lay seige to his embattled people, is one of his motivations. "No single church can face this challenge alone," he says, "neither the Koman Catholic, nor the Orthodox, "neither the Roman nor the Anglicans, nor any other Protestant or Free church. This challenge has to be faced with togetherness."

RUTH GLEDHILL



Karekin I of Armenia with Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury

Why we should follow the example of the saints

old ouestion of how one ma identify such persons. The equally ancient answer to which (by their fruits) is that we may do so by looking at their lives, in particular their attitudes to, and their works for, the poor in body, mind and spirit, and by their discern-

itself a form of politics, and nor are ment and spiritual wisdom. There is a contemporary tendency social mores or justice forms of, or adequate substitutes for, salvation.

The true purpose of religion is to sanctify or make holy. This is achieved in a variety of ways but to use the term "saint" to refer to anyone whose life and works are especially favoured, particularly if they have been the object of criticism. always through the grace of God. One of the important channels Yet true sanctity is a rare and precious feature in human life. How

social, order are to be sustained. through which grace flows is Meanwhile, the advocates of redistributive taxation and of state welfare holy persons. This raises the





many such people there are is hard to determine, since holiness and public renown do not sit easily together.

Certainly there have been holy men and women famous in their own lifetimes: St Francis of Assisi. St Catherine of Genoa and John Wesley are among the many examples. But they also belong to less cynical ages they found them and did not rush to debunk great figures as self-promoting hypocrites. The most common message of the saints is to give yourself to God and to look after

people in need. The lesson of history, however, is that those who have most deeply loved and served their fellows have also loved and served God.

There are two important reasons for this. First, the task of caring for others is often difficult and sometimes dangerous; it requires deep conviction, and religion can provide this. Second, and more importantly. the love of others may flow out of a love of God. I do not mean that others

are loved for the sake of God, as if the concern were not for them as such. But rather, that a religious understanding of the sort possessed by the saints provides them with a vision of what human beings really are, passed with a vision of control with a vision of control vision of cont namely "images of God".

Saint John of God was born in Portugal in 1495. Having been a servant he became a soldier and then a shepherd. By stages he grew deeply troubled by his neglect of God, sold all his possessions and gave himself to a life of prayer. As his biographer writes, "he died to the world". Others judged him mad and he was confined to an asylum. When he was freed and he worked relentlessly for the poor, in whom he had come to see the animating presence of Christ. His teaching to those who followed him was simple: "Labour without intermission to do all the good works in your power whilst time is allowed you". It is a saintly injunction that we would do well to follow.

● John Haldane is Professor of Philosophy at the University of St Andrews.

Local boy makes good



Ruth Gledhill

admires the style of preacher of the year

THE PREACHERS, three men, two women and all Anglican, sat in the front row, looking nervous. This was the climax of the third Preacher of the Year award, organised by the College of Preachers and sponsored by The Times.

in the past two years the award has been won by men. Father Bill Anderson, of Aberdeen, and the Rev Barry Overend, of Leeds, were among the judges, as was Ernie Rea, head of religious broadcasting at the BBC: Joan Bakewell, writer and broadcaster, was chairman,

Some of us were praying for a woman to win this year. Sadly, in spite of the excellence of the sermons of the Rev Sally Chapman, of Willenhall, West Midlands, and Gill Green, of Newmarket, Suffolk, the only lay person in the final, this was not to be. Durham Cathedral was built as a shrine to St Cuthbert, who did not have much time for women. To deliver their sermons, the preachers had to climb high into the pulpit, and to get there they had to cross a Purbeck marble line near the font. It is said that in medieval times, women were not allowed beyond this line. Maybe St Cuthbert had a hand in the result.

It was the local boy who won, much to the delight of many in the congregation. Not only did the Rev Paul Walker, born in York and serving as priest-in-charge of a newly founded church in Moorside. Sunderland. have the advantage in preaching last - after four sermons It is always a relief when the fifth is at hand but he was by far the most entertaining, his levity leavened by the necessary moral

and spiritual points. We were welcomed by the sub-dean, Canon Michael Perry, and the Bishop of

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Durham, the Right Rev Michael Turnbull, said the bidding prayer: "We pray preaching of truth. We ask that they may be given holy intention, integrity of mind and freedom in the spirit that they may declare the truth boldly."

All five preachers had been invited to speak on "holiness". After the two women preached, both of them capturing and holding our attention with ease, it Neville Manning, of Newhaven, East Sussex. This was all in a day's work for Mr Manning, who delivers as many as four sermons on

Next in the pulpit was the Rev Michael Parker, Rector of St John and St Leonard in Bedford. Holiness is about an "otherness" that is real and can be known, he said. In the face of the holiness of Christ, we all long to have the grime of our lives

All the sermons were wonderful examples of holiness in action and by the end I felt a tiny bit holier than I had at the start.

Durham Cathedral, Durham, DHI 3EQ (0191-386 4266). Entries for next year's Preacher of the Year can be submitted. preferably in manuscript form. to Ruth Gledhill at The Times.



The Rev Paul Walker: spiritual but entertaining

TIMES TIMES

Church services tomorrow

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 M. Canon F D Swann; 3.15 Ch E. BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; II S Euch; 3.30 Ch E, Walmisley in

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC: 11 Ch Euch, Stainer in A, Canon G

BIACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M; 10.30 Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart; 4 Ch E, Canon Galilee. BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8, 11 Euch, Canon P Jackson; 3.30 E, Stewart in C. BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch: 3.30 Ch E. Stanford in C. CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Canon C Hill; 3 E.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 1.30 MP, 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch; 6 Ch E, Responses: Rose, Canon M Proctor. CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; II S Euch; 3.30 E, Goss in E. CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: II S Euch, Messe Solemelle (Langlais); 3.30 Ch E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Short Service (Byrd). Canon Ward; 11.15 S Euch, 6 E. COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP, 8 C: 10.30 Euch, Messe cum jubilo (Duruflé); 3 German & Polish Lutherans; 5 Ch E. DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S

Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart); 6 E. Ven DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; ILIS HC, Darke in F; 3.30 E. ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina); 3.45 E sung by The Plantol Scholars. EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S

Euch; 11.15 M. Responses: Rose; 3 E. Stanford in G; 6.30 ES, Rev Dr D Ison. GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch; 11.15 M; 6.30 E, Sumsion in G, Rev HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 10

Euch, Missa Eliensis (Wills): 11.30 M. Britten in E; 3.30 E. LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Ch M, Stanford in B flat, Ven H Jones; 12

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL 8 HC. 10.30 S Euch, Jackson in G: 3.30 E. LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 9.30 S Euch; 11.15 M; 12.30 HC: 3.45 E. LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL 8 MP & HC: 1030 Each: 3 Ch E: 4 HC. LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L: 8, 9 Euch; 11 S Euch, Ireland in C; 12.15 Euch; 3.30 Ch E; 6.30 E & Sermon, Rev R C NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC: 9.30 S Euch. Jackson in G: 6 Ch E. NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Each, Mass for 3 voices (Byrd); 6.30 Ch E. Noble in B minor, Canon T Palmer. NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8. 9.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Schubert in G; 3.30 Judge's Service; 6 EP; 6.30 Euch.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL 930 M; 10.30 Euch, Sumsion in F; 3.30 E.
PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 C, Canon D Isaac; 11 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells); 6.30 E. M; 10.30 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais); 3.15 Memorial E for Canon R Muson.

MINT.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10
Euch; 11:30 M; 3 Ch E, Collegium
Magdalensis (Leighton); 6 Taint Service.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10
MP; 10:30 S Euch, Darke in P; 6:30 E. SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; il Ch Euch: 3 Ch E, Coventry Service

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & L: 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 S Euch, Jackson in G, Canon P N Humphreys; 3.15 E. TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S

Euch, Missa Acterna Christi (Palestrina); 5 EP: a County Service for Youth Sunday. WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, 9.15 C: Il Solemn Euch, Missa Brevis (Leighton), Canon R Gage, 4 E.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10 M. Canon D Hutt; II.15 Euch, Schubert in G; 3 E. Magdalen Service (Leighton); 5.45 Organ Recital; 6.30 E. WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9

Mass, 10.30 Solemm Mass, Messe Solemelle (Langlais); 12 Mass, 2.45 Organ Recital; 3.30 Sol V & B: 5.30, 7 Mass. WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M: ILIS S Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart); 3 Service to Commemorate HM the Queen's Wedding Anniversary - ticket only: 5.30 E. YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch. Mass in 4 parts (Byrd); 11.30 M; 4 E. ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL Herifordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; U.15 M, Responses:

Leighton, Canon Ritson; 6.30 E. ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL Aberdeen: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Harwood in A flat; 6.30 ES, 5th Service (Tomkins). ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; li Ch M. Psalmen Davids (Schütz); 3.30 EP. ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 730 MP; 8 HC; 9:30 Cymun Bendigaid; 11.15 Ch Each, Stanford in C & F; 6 Ch E. The Dean. ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL 8
HC; 10 S Euch, Rev R Davey; 11.30 Ch C,
Darke in F; 3.30 Ch E.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, SEI: 8, 10 LM; II.30 Solemn Mass; I.30 Mass; 5 EP & B: 6 Mass. ST GILES CATHEDRAL Edinburgh: &

10 HC: 11:30 MS, Rev A R Morton; 6 Oban Bach Choir; 8 ES. ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10:30 S Euch; 3:30 Ch E. Gibbons

Short Service. ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Glasgow: 8.30 Euch; 10 S Euch: 12 HC; 3.30-8.50 Diocesan Youth Service; 6.30 Ch E. ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old

Aberdeen: 11 MS, Rev R Frazer; 6 ES. ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch in Lady Chapel; II.15 M, Rev R.J. Riddel; 3.15 Ch E, Wood in F. ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Missa Christi (Leighton); 3.15 E, Stanford in A: 5 Organ Recital. RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHE-DRAL, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan

and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.
ALL SAINTS, WI: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; II
HM: 5.15 LM; 6 E & B, Worcester Service (Howells), Rev N Mercer. ALL SOULS, WI: 8 C; 9:30, 11:30 MP, Nev P Blackham; 6,30 EP, Rev Dr J Stott.

THE ASSUMPTION, WI: 11 MS, Mass for 4 Voices (Byrd). CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC;

10 Children's Service: 11 M, Rev Dr P Elvy; 12.15 HC: 6 E, Rev D Bean. CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOT-LAND, WCZ: 11.15 MS, Rev A McDonald; 6.30 ES, Rev J McMahon.

FARM STREET, WI: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; II HM. HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SWI: 9 HC, Rev R Thorpe; II MS, Rev S Millar; 5,

7.30 Informal Service. THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Theresa Mass (Haydn); 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V & B: 4.30. 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W& II Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian. WESLEY'S CHAPEL, ECZ 9.45 HC; II MS, Gordon Barritt. WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 MP, Rev P Graves; 6.30 ES.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), EC2: 11 Ch Euch; 7 Jazz Vespers. ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT. ECI: 9 HC: 11 Ch Euch, Missa O rex gloriae (Lobo): 6.30 E. Purcell in G minor. ST BRIDE'S, EC4: II Ch M & Euch, Missa Brevis (Walson), Canon J Oates, 6.30 Ch E, Wesley in E, Rev J Banister. ST CLEMENT DANES: II Ch Euch, Mass in G (Schobert), Rev I Colson. ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOT- ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: II S Mass, Mass in D (Dvorak) ST GEORGE'S, WI: 8.30 HC; II S Euch, Missa Brevis in A (Darlow). The Rector. STJAMES'S, W2: 10.30 S Euch, Mass in F berg, Rev A Meldrum: 6 Ch E. ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch, Bishop J Gaillot: 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, ELS: II Family Service, Rev D Richards; 6:30 HC, Rev M Okello. ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC: 10:30 S Euch, Ubi caritas (Duruflet: 0.30 E, Rev J Streeting. ST MARK'S, NWI: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch & Baptism, Messe Solennelle (Vierne). Rev T Devonshire Jones. ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8

HC; 9.45 Euch; 11.30 Vistors Service; 2.45 Chinese Service: 5 Ch E: 6.30 ES. ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, W& 8 HC: 9.30 Euch: 11.15 Ch M. Fr F Gelli; 12.30 HC: 630 E. Fr M Fuller. ST MARYS, SWI: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM: 6

Solemn E, Fr W Davage: 7.15 LM. ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Mozarı). Rev S Chrystal; 6 Living with Faith. ST MARYLEBONE, WI: 8 HC; II Ch ST PAUL'S, SWI: 8, 9 HC; II Solemn Euch, Mass in D (Mozart). Rev Dr C Cunliffe.

Ench; II S Euch, Missa choralis (Liszt). CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; II M & Sermon, Responses: Aylward. Rev P R C Abram. CHAPEL ROYAL, St.James's Palace: 8.30

ST PETER'S, SWI: 8.15 HC: 10 Family

HC; 11.15 MP, Canon J Sykes. CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Pal-ace: 8.30 HC; 11 M; 3.30 E. GROSVENOR CHAPEL WI: II S Euch. Missa Brevis (Kelly). Rev D Dewey. QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY.

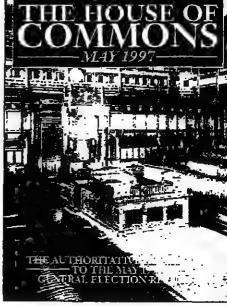
WC2: 11 M. Vaughan Williams in G; 12:30 HC, The Chaplain. GRAYS INN CHAPEL, WCIR: 11.15 Divine Service. QUEEN'S FREE CHAPEL OF ST

GEORGE, Windsor Castle: 8.30 HC; 10.45 M & Sermon; 11.45 S Euch. Missa Brevis (Walton); 5.15 E. THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP. Responses: Smith, Vaughan Williams in C, Rev J Paul. GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SWI: II M, Band of the Coldstream

Guards; 12 HC. ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL SEI0: 11 S Euch, Anglican Folk Mass (Martin Shaw), Rev G Clifford.

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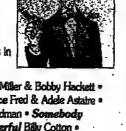
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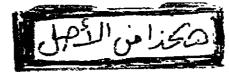


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but they remain beautiful, says Jane Owen



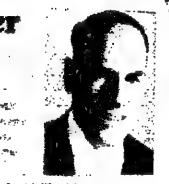
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Ralph Northcott with his all-season cacti

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fleshpots other plants, they remove carbon dioxide and release oxygen at Ralph Northcott, one of this

ensure flowerless Christmas cacti.

An added bonus of Schlumbergera is that, according to a new book, Eco-

Friendly House Plants (published by Phoenix Illustrated at £9.99), Christ-

mas cacti remove chemical vapours

from the atmosphere - unlike most

country's leading nurserymen. and a regular gold medallist at Royal Horticultural Society shows, was lured into succulent obsession at the age of nine when playing in his grand-mother's greenhouse. He knocked over a peanut cactus in to the living room or kitchen will

(Echinopsis chamaecereus syn Chamaecereus silvestrii) which fell apart. His grandmother gave him the bits to grow cuttings. He did so and used them as swaps for conkers and marbles. Thirty years on, he has a third of an acre under glass and 200,000 to 300,000 plants to look after with the help

of his wife. His suggestion for a good display 'Most at this time of year succulents is Echinocactus *grosonii* (golden need no barrel cactus), the watering elegant *Cleisto*cactus strausii 'Snow Pole' and the classic spaduring ghetti western winter 'rabbit ear" cactus Opuntia micromonths' dasys 'Alba'. Mr Northcott's

great achievement is to bring hardy cacti to this country. The Americans have been growing cacti in evercooler conditions since the 1970s but Mr Northcott is the first large grower to try this on a commercial scale.

Imagine an Opuntia outside your window, covered in snow. The Northcotts have witnessed such a sight and, if Mr Northcott's schemes go according to plan, the Chelsea Flower Show in 1999 should include a display of cacti hardy to minus 20C.

There are three fairly hardy plants not normally grown outside and in which Mr Northcott has most faith: Opuntia pycnantha, which is the spectacular bush form and can suffer temperatures as low as minus 34C; Opuntia impricata, which is the tubular. Wild West cactus shape; and the yukka-like Dasylirion texanum.

Most cacti can be grown from seed and many can be propagated from rootstock or leaf or stem cuttings. They need a free-draining soil, about one-third sharp sand to two-thirds potting compost, and their main pest, mealybug, has to be sprayed with malathion. When dormant, succulents in pots need to be kept dry, and during the growing season the com-post must dry out between waterings. But be warned - if you get infected by this obsession there are probably about 20,000 varieties.

Westfield Cacti, 01392 832921.

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

My 8ft-high, 50ft-long leylandii hedge pro-vides exactly the screen 1 need from the hotel next door, but cracks are appearing in the Tarmac of the hotel car park, spread-ing out from the base of half a dozen of my leylandii. I would welcome your advice on root prun-ing, whether I could be asked to pay for resurfac-ing, and whether I should start again with a new hedge. — J. Berry, Sandbach, Cheshire.

I would leave well alone. Hedges give privacy and security on both sides, and I imagine I would leave well the hotel management is as glad of your hedge as you are. Leylandii are not notorious for making big sur-face roots, but whatever the reason, it would do your hedge no good to have these roots severed. However, a neighbour has the right to sever them on his property, and if the roots cause a nuisance you are liable.

I used to buy the herbicide Weedout to tackle couch grass because it did not affect other plants. Now that it has been withdrawn, can you recommend a useful alternative? — D.R. Gilling, Norwich. Weedout (alloxydim

Meedout (succession) was very useful, if not quite the saviour you make it sound: it killed grasses generally, among broad-leafed plants. Farmers still have a commercial version, but there is no formulation for amateurs. Weedout was withdrawn. not by the Government but by the manufacturer, because it did not sell well enough.



Keep leylandii in check

I have acid soil and grow rhododendrons and camellias easily. All my neighbours have blue bydrangeas with no special treatment, but not me. What rould be missing from my soil? Iron? Aluminium? — D.L. Smare, Guiseley, West Yorkshire.

To get a deep blue hydrangea you need first of all a willing variety. Those which are pale pink on limey soil will only be pale blue on acid soil. Deep reds on time will be a rich blue on acid: for example, 'Altona', 'Hamburg', 'Europa' and the lace-cap type 'Blue Wave'. If the soil is acid but the flowers are not blue, the soil is short of aluminium. This can be corrected by adding alum powder, sold in garden centres. Be careful not to overdose the plants, and follow the instructions on the packet.

• Write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures accompanying leiters cannot be returned.

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water, so allowing them to survive

drought conditions. All cacti are

succulents but the reverse is not true. It is an odd time of year to consider

plants generally associated with hot, arid zones, but it is exactly when they are not flowering that I find their

beauty most appealing: the exquisite pale leaves of some of the rosette-

forming Echeveria, which look as if

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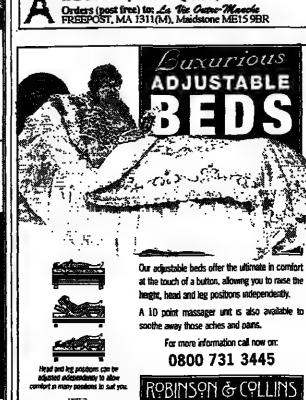
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Hideaway for wok, rest and play

ancy Lam. the Channel 5 cook, once described as the Khmer Rouge's answer to Basil Fawlty, is being alarmingly calm for someone who can cause grown food critics to wish they'd stuck with Delia Smith. No obscenities are untered as they are to journalists and customers who brave Enak Enak, her eight-table restaurant in south London. Her hair, sometimes a riot of five primary colours, is plain red.

But this is Ms Lam's Tooting home, a small Edwardian semi with a 120ft garden stretching down to a suburban railway line. She is off duty.

"I am a very nice person." she says and roars with laughter. So why does she give her customers such grief?
"Not called grief. That is called heavy fun. It like a

verbal massage and the cus-

tomers, they love it. They say 'that woman is *mod*'.' Tooting, home for the past 21 years after she arrived from Singapore in 1970, tames Ms Lam. Maybe the calming effect is enhanced by chimes that hang from many of the small

trees in her garden. "When I get very frustrated I ring the whole chimes - ring ring. Bong bong bong," roars Ms Lam, who is nearly 50 ("like Prince Charles" going on four-and-a-half.

However, even the garden has its tensions with Ben, her husband, who is shouted at a lot on her television series.

Ben is not into gardening. He is trying to play golf, so he makes lots of holes in my garden. I am going to put a big sign: 'You do not damage your garden. You damage your brain." This is said in a manner that suggests the brain damage would be inflicted by Ms Lam.

"Men have the menopause worse than women. I know he's got his on and so have I. On television, people say, 'Oh, she gives him a really hard time, but it is acting.

The Singapore flat she was brought up in had a balcony where her mother grew roses that she was not allowed to touch. Today her front garden is full of roses.

The back garden is reached through a conservatory, built to extend the living space for people rather than plants.



Nancy Lam, television's wildest cook, finds peace in her south London garden, which features a terrace for meditation and herbs for infusing bathwater. The pond contains koi carp beneath the ornamental fountain

ME AND MY GARDEN: NAMEY LA

support magnolia, camellia mock orange, hydrangeas, wisteria, bamboo, white lilac, mulberry, cherry, almond, greengage, pear, apricot, peach and fig. Ms Lam planted them all except an old apple. "It has woodworm. ery sad. Have to get rid of it." The beds are raised in case

pelargoniums provide balm. "If you feel low you go into the Ms Lam's arthritis finally garden and rub them up and prevents her from bending. Arthritis is also the reason for Raised beds made from her current diet - she has to lose a stone by Christmas. "I railway sleepers reach up the side of the garden. The beds have to eat less and enjoy it."

Now the only fruit left is on the Turkish fig. The almond gives a few nuts "but in England it is difficult. The Mulberry does not have many fruit but they are so sweet. The apples are not so good now, so

I put them in salad. The centrepiece of the garden is a 26ft koi carp pond made from Butyl liner, with a fountain in the middle and dotted with white water lilies. Sited around the edge is a planting of hostas ("unfortunately, they are always exten grasses and bamboo.

هِ كَذَا مِن رِلامِل

The bricks that form a slightly raised patio at the far end of the garden came from a Chelsea Flower Show display garden, and cost £50.

Money, or lack of it, is a recurring theme of Ms Lam's commentary on her garden: They think because you are a showgirl you've got plenty of dosh. That is not the case. "When I have money the first thing I'll do is build a

pergola over the terrace - an

oriental one, with a vine over it. Then I make another pond. Will she get a bigger restau-

rant to make more money? "No. You only can die with one coffin. You only can drive one car. It is Catch-22. If you have big restaurant, you have big headache. If you have small one, you just have pain in the side. Ms Lam says.

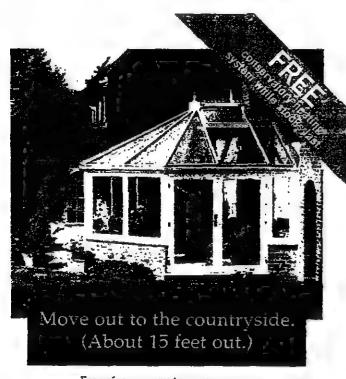
Another plan is to rebuild an eccentric feature that involves water trickling down four concrete steps. "It's called the Botched-Up Waterfall. Next year III break it down and make it more exotic. "It is a garden of wildness. It

is not near. It has more weeds than my hair growing. I love it. I get out in the morning or night and weed and pick up the droppings from the dogs

has the best."

But her long-term ambition is to do with neither cooking nor gardening: "When I grow up I am going to draw."

HOMES & GARDENS



Outside, a concrete path leads

to a spiral staircase up to a

sunbathes, Naked. "I call it my

The roof - "I call it my

meditation room" — supports

Ms Lam. two wooden ele-

phants from Africa (a present

from her brother) and pots full

of pansies, honeysuckle and

ing flowers. They smile at you

makes a private oasis at the

house end of the garden. Here.

herbs are planted within easy

A trellis swathed in clematis

en you water them."

Pansies are such welcom-

own nude beach."

Busy Lizzies.

terrace where Ms Lam

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especially salads, but most of

all for herbal infusions, to

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while scented leaf

pink and spotted, and ivy-

leafed geraniums provide col-

you feel better."

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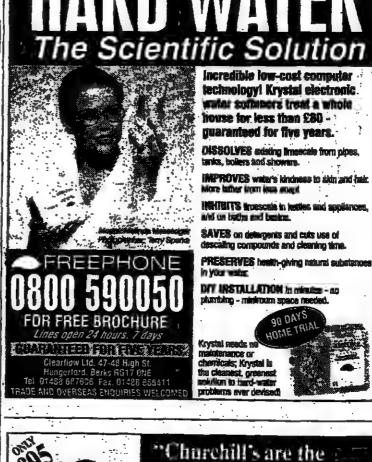
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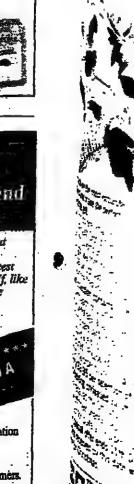


intream meart

and water my garden." Where does Ms Lam get her plants? "Everywhere. Boot fairs. Sometimes Woolworth's

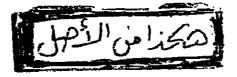
JANE OWEN Nancy Lam Stirs It Up was











Old treasures unearthed

Some of Britain's most beautiful and historic gardens

are at last being restored, Barbara Abbs discovers

few years ago it was inconceivable that there were any parts of the United Kingdom left to discover. Then in farthest Cornwall, the pop music entrepreneur Tim Smit discovered, or rediscovered, the lost garden of Heligan and spent several years restoring We all stopped wearing out the paths at Sissinghurst and flocked to Cornwall instead. Suddenly owners of historic houses realised that they too could iricrease their visitor numbers, save their ailing estates and fill in a bit of Britain's horticultural history by restoring their neglected gardens. The County Gardens Trust alerted people throughout the country to the trea-sures on their doorsteps. The great garden restoration era began. There are still, how-

In the South East, the pleasure garden of St Mary's Bramber, a beautiful late-15th century timber-framed house in West Sussex, was sold separately and lay neglected for 50 years. Even Bramber villagers had never seen it. The 3.5-acre site in the centre of the village suddenly came on to the market and developers flocked to see it, waving their plans for dividing the secret garden into separate lots which would have destroyed it for ever. The owners of St Mary's, the composer, poet and critic Peter Thorogood and the ceramic designer Peter Linton, acted swiftly and borrowed enough.

ever, jewels that are under

money to secure the site. The Victorian garden of St Mary's was laid out in the 1890s by the Hon Algernon Burke, son of the Earl of Mayo and model for Algernon in Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest. It included a circular orchard and yew hedges. It still has its original greenhouse, potting shed, apple store and 140ft fruit wall. To restore the grounds, a St Mary's Lost Garden Appeal has been launched, and because the garden is in the centre of one of Sussex's visitors is guaranteed.

FACTFILE

Bramber, West Sussex (01003 816205) is open all year for concerts, reception and hospitality, and from
Easter for tours.

Monreith Estate, Port
William, Newton Stewart
DG8 9LB (01988 700248) opens in May for the Scottish Gardens Scher but the walks are open daily

throughout the year.

The Association of Gardens Trusts, 8 Glasshouse Lane Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2AJ (01926 52976). The Cowcross Street, London ECIM 6BP.

Things are different in the remote corners of Dumfries and Galloway. The majority of visitors to Scotland head for the Highlands and Islands, and even those to Galloway can miss the Whithorn penin-sula, cut off from the rest of the area by the hills known as the Machars. Between the Machars and the sea there are several "lost" gardens, the most interesting being that at Monreith House.

Readers of Gavin Maxwell's The House of Elrig will remember that Monreith was the home of Gavin's grandfather, Sir Herbert Maxwell, and one to which he returned regularly throughout his life, long after Eirig had been sold. It was in the White Loch of Myrton, a part of the Monreith estate, that Mijbil, Maxwell's otter and star of Ring of Bright Water, took his first swim in Scotland. There are several footpaths marked

round the loch. What the walkers may miss, however, is the collection of rhododendrons and exotic trees collected by Sir Herbert. He was a prolific writer, about his garden, local history and politics, and a painter as well. Gavin Maxwell-describes his grandfather painting and gar-dening all day, activities he was somewhat dismissive of Sir Herbert painted one of his projects like these

For that Extra Special

in the grounds, including one

rhododendron species each day, and many of the paintings are on display in the house, now divided into rather grand holiday flats.

This move has saved the house, which was in a bad state until Sir Michael Maxwell, the current owner, inherited it. The garden, however, is still in limbo. The rare rhododendrons, cucryphias and berberis are still there, some 50ft high, but increasingly

swamped by sycamores.

There is a grove of that Victorian favourite, the monkey puzzle tree and, even more excitingly, the remains of the avenues and tree clumps of an 18th-century park.

The estate also contains the ruins of the 15th-century Myrton Castle and its walled garden. The castle was largely destroyed by the builder who built Monreith House in the late 18th century, but an enormous tapestry of flowers that grew in that walled garden, the work of the wife of the third Maxwell baronet, now hangs in the hallway of Monreith. It shows Madonna and Isabelline lilies, clove carnations and auriculas among the flowers.

state maps, the tapestry and the evidence on the ground, those vestigial lime and beech avenues, all point towards an earlier important garden, over which Sir Her-bert's collection of exotics forms a fascinating overlay.

It is still touch and go whether the garden or the sycamores will be the victor. But Robert Tossnic, the manager at Monreith House, has called in Mervyn Kessell of the Scottish Rhododendron Society and Christopher Dingwall, the conservation officer of the Garden History Society (Scot-

concerned people, to see what can most fruitfully be done. At Heligan, Tim Smit, with his zest and promotional skills, has led the way in showing the possibilities for

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land). There will be a one-day

conference at Monreith early

next year to bring together



Hidden splendours: Monreith House has a Victorian monkey puzzle grove and the remains of an 18th-century park



Plant or move roses. Roses arriving by post may have dry roots and should be soaked for an hour in a hucket of cold water before planting. The same applies to bare-moted trees and shrubs. Trim off any broken or damaged roots. When moving established roses, it is almost impossible to get up all the long, wiry, deeproot system. Do your best with a fork. Ensure the plant goes into an enriched hole, and reduce the top growth by a half or more, to stop wind-rock and give the roots a chance to re-establish.

Fuchsias put under glass for winter should be kept frost-free, and the leaves allowed to fall: collect up the leaves to discourage moulds. Cuttings taken in the autumn will be stronger next spring if they the winter, but not in active growth, at about 41F/5C.

Patio pots and containers should be scrubbed out when their contents have succumbed to the frosts. Move pots with a permanent planting of shrubs or topiary to a suitably sheltered spot for the winter, and check that the drainage is working.

■ Cloves of garlic may be planted outdoors on light, well-drained soils. Use only plump, firm bulblets and set 7in apart.

■ Give frost protection to celeriac and other root crops left in the ground, with straw or bracken, hedge prunings, or horticultural

In milder gardens, the hardiest 'Aquadulce' broad beans and sugar peas may be sown in mild spells for an early crop next year. Watch for mice, and use a cloche if the weather turns

■ Hardwood cuttings of currants and gooseberries taken last autumn can be transplanted into their final positions, after thorough enrichment of the soil in the



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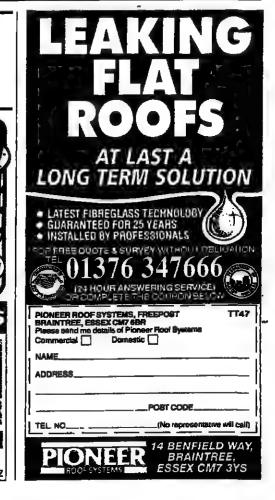
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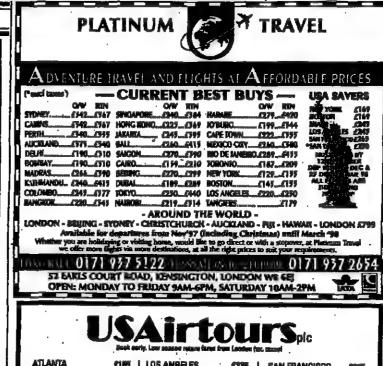
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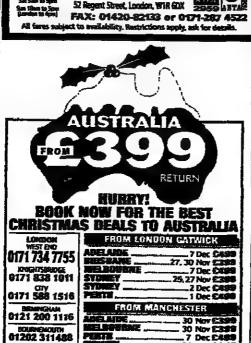
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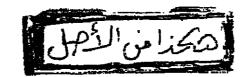
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German goodwill and glühwein

Gareth Huw Davies finds

seasonal cheer in a city at peace with itself

n a late afternoon of nipping chill, in a city square in the heart of Europe, I found the antidote to brash, glitzy, overblown, commercial Christmas.

As the daylight ebbed, a cheerful glow paised up from the covered stalls of the Nuremberg Christkindimarkt, crammed together in medieval tightness. The city, capital of the Franconia region of north-ern Bavaria, claims the great-

est concentration stores in Germany. The modest wares on sale here the Hauptmarkt scarcely caused the people in smart coats and scarves to take out their credit cards but at four o'clock, a choir of Nuremberg mastersing-

ers took the stage in front of Frauenkirche. Cue for the smart coats to press forward and form a genteel Germanic scrum around the base of the stage. I stood back to listen, wrapping my fingers for maximum warming effect around a ceramic mug of glühwein.

The choir sang Hark the Herald Angels in English. with unaccompanied purity. Ancient decree prohibits aural competition among the stalls - no traders' calls, no music. The stallholders are chosen

from local merchants. They stand proud under painted name boards, selling toys and small seasonal ornaments that dangle and rustle in the raw wind. There were gold foil angels, straw stars, candles and diaphanous mobiles. One lady surveyed her wares from a small aperture high at the back of her stall. She was entirely framed by Zwet-schgenmännlein - little prune

and crêpe paper figures.

1 bought Lebkuchen (spicy gingerbread), the deceptively dense and heavy Früchtebrot (fruit bread), Stollen and fruit tea.

Früchtetee. Down every alley there was a family toiling over hot coals for the snacks that work to best effect purdoors on a cold evening.
The Wolf family

served me grilled Nuremberg sausages. Rostbratwürste. There were six on my plate, with a towering hunk of break and a

mound of sauerkraut. This is the market of markets, the first and best in Europe, the model for any city or town that wants to create a small enclave of tranquillity away from the seasonal shopping frenzy. This is Nuremberg's Christmas Continuous, carrying on much as it has

since the Middle Ages. The Christkindlmarkt (liter ally the Christchild's market) had an unlikely patron. Martin Luther, father of Protestantism, initiated the custom

of giving presents to children at Christmas instead of new year. Fixed in its season, the market proceeded serenely through the centuries. Hitler, recognising a symbol of Germanic family values in the

propaganda capital of his Reich, gave it his support. Retribution came to Nuremberg on January 2, 1945, when Allied bombers destroyed 90 per cent of the old town. The market reopened in 1948, a beacon of hope even as the war trials were proceeding a few streets away in the Hall of

There is live music on the Frauenkirche stage on the hour, every hour - in a city whose name is contained in the title of a great opera, Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, you would expect no less. On my walk from the airport bus stop at the main station.

through the traffic-free streets. buskers defied the one-degree cold to spread a continuous

pathway of sound. On Königstrasse, French horns boomed out a medley of carols. A man playing an antique metal fid-die reeled off yearning melodies. And, incongruous and stoical, Kenny Grant "aus Schottland", in a kilt, rendered Brian Boru's march on a tin

Hans Sachs, the extraordinary 16th-century cobbler, poet, playwright and masternger who is the hero of Wagner's opera, was everywhere in statues, on chocolate-box lids and ceramic plates. I even saw him in paintable model form, alongside soldiers of the Branden-

burg Kurassier regiment. Sach's poem, Bittersweet Married Life, is controver-

sially set in lascivious sculpture as a fountain, depicting scenes from marital life — it was paid for from the 1-2 per cent of the building budget Which developers are required to spend on public art.

The Nuremberg Christmas market (above left) combines the seasonal traditions of gift-buying and warming food and wine with rousing music

The image of Nuremburg's other famous son, Albrecht Dürer, was there on chocolate boxes too, but disappointingly not in the original. This may have more to do with past art-market forces than any neglect by today's city fathers. I stayed at the Dürer Hotel, next door to his house. Today, as the Dürer Museum, it contains only copies of the master's works. For the originals, try the Prado or the

Save Nuremberg's market for the fading day. The morning is the time to climb the ramparts and take in the city. Germany is an unlikely candimonarchial restoration but if the king ever were to return, the Kaiserburg, the old imperial castle built on precipitous crags, is waiting.

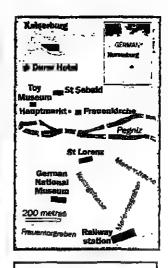
The "old" city, rebuilt after the war much as it was, spread out before us, timbered houses with steep brown and red roofs enclosed by the threemile-long, 14th-century city wall, with its 80 fortified towers and the tremendous bulwarks of four main gates. My guide, a Germanophile American named Sally Slenczka, extended an arm over a feel-good city, comfortable and humane in its proportions. She made no attempt to divert my eye from the complex of buildings representing a mighty evil a few

miles to the southeast. Medieval Nuremberg held

Nazis and the first of the great Nazi rallies was held here in 1927. I am surprised that the physical remains of Hitler's propaganda machine are still there. But perhaps there is a point to leaving the unfinished Congress Hall, the Main Stand, Zeppelinfeld parade ground and colossal Grosse Strasse, 60 metres wide and two kilometres long (it is now a car park), as mute witnesses to

a powerful fascination for the

Nazi megalomania. Sally led me down into the old town. We crossed the river Pegnitz on Germany's first suspension bridge and passed the house where the mysterious foundling Kaspar Hauser briefly lived after he was found, so it was claimed, living wild in the forest in the early years of the last century. The Toy Museum displays what may be the original Meccano



FACT FILE

Gareth Huw Davles travelled to Nuremberg with the German National Tourist Office and Lufthansa. Lufthansa (0345 737747) flies direct to

Nuremberg from Heathrow once daily at 30pm, Prices start at £192 return, which must include a Saturday night stay; otherwise from

Operators offering

Nuremberg Christmas market breaks include Taber Holidays (01274 735611: three nights start at £298 per person) and DER Travel Service (0171-290 1111: three nights start at £439 per personi. Dürer Hotel, Neutormauer 32 (00 49 911 208091); double room with breakfast E76-E86. Although December is

busy in Nuremberg, the city's Tourist Board (00 49 911 336124) can arrange ■ The Nurembers Christkindimarkt opens at

5.30pm on November 28 and runs until lpm on Some of the biggest markets in Germany are In Berlin, Hamburg,

Dresden, Cologne, Munich and Stungart The German National Tourist Office, 65 Curzon Street, London. WIY 8NE (089) 600100. premium rates, fax 0171-495 6129).

set, developed by local toy manufacturers.

Nuremberg has two fine high Gothic churches, St Lorenz and St Sebaldus, close together and similar. This was a free city and one of Europe's first civic democracies, so the citizenry saw no reason to smash up the contents in the Reformation. The churches' treasures were hidden before the bombers struck. Most of St Lorenz was destroyed.

Outside the 19th-century German National Museum is the Way of Human Rights by the Israeli sculptor Dani Karavan, li struck me as an eloquent response to the Nuremberg Laws and other outrages perpetrated in the city's name. Thirty pillars and a tree stand in a row: each pillar represents a nation where human rights have been, or are being, violated (the leaves on the tree stand for the nations left out), and each is inscribed with one of the 30 articles of the UN Declaration

on Human Rights.
I decide to send myself forth into the Christmas season with a last visit to the market. On Königstrasse the four French horns were still playing lustily: rapid, ornamented Baroque music keeps you warm. A trombone ensemble played Angels from the Realms of Glory. And the Christmas card artist's fantasy fulfilled - a single snowflake brushed against my cheek.

Christmas markets, page 26



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Christmas markets: they have long been a success in Germany and Austria and now British cities are copying the idea



Christmas is big business in Vienna, where the markets run for longer than in Britain

Shopping in a Viennese whirl

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head for the markets which spring up around the city for Advent and the countdown to Christmas.

When we visited, the famous Viennese coffee houses were crammed with exhausted but victorious shoppers rewarding themselves with large helpings of chocolate sachertorte, washed down by small, expensive cups of coffee. Then, their shopping fever unabated, they turned their attention to one of the many markets dedicated to the festive season.

Neat wooden huts (none of your plastic sheeting here) in even neater lines held displays of every imaginable Christmas tree light, decoration, candle and wooden toy. Anyone who was still hungry could rely on a steady supply of mulled wine, pretzels, hot potatoes and chestnuts.

The market of markets takes place each year in the courtyard at Schönbrunn, the summer palace of the Habsburgs, a short underground ride from the city centre.

The Viennese, having shopped till The attraction of Schönbrunn is the they dropped in department stores, apartments of Sisi, Empress Elizabeth, the much-loved princess who died from an assassination attempt in 1898. Next year. Vienna mounts a series of centenary exhibitions and events in her honour.

When we arrived at the market, throngs of people were already shopping with gusto in the courtyard below the elegantly floodlit palace, or leaning against the bar of a mulled wine hut.

Christmas is big business in Vienna, regardless of the religious significance it may have for the country's overwhelmingly Catholic population. In a city radiating such Christmas goodwill, the sight of three armed policemen standing around their patrol car in a quiet cobbled square came as a shock. But this was Friday evening off the Judengasse, or Jews' Street. The police have stood guard since last year's murder of two worshippers at the city's synagogue by Palestinian

Orthodox Jews in long black coats and

fur hats ignored the police as they hurried into the synagogue through the cold winter air. The police were joking among themselves but their presence served as a salutary reminder that, even in proudly low-crime Vienna, there are undercurrents of conflict.

Nearer to the centre, in front of the town hall, the stalls of the Christkindimarkt fill the Rathauspark every day in the month leading up to Christmas.

nd there are also workshops for making and baking presents and A special sideshows for children. At night this shopping extravaganza continues, and the atmosphere of the illuminated market is quite magical.

Smaller and more traditional is the Alt

Wiener Christkindlmarkt at the Freyung, while other Christmas markets can be found at the Heiligenkreuzerhof and in the Spittelberg pedestrian area.

SARA MCCONNELL

- FACT FILE

Sara McConnell travelled with Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts and Lauda Air.

Heart of the City weekends are available at the Hotel Inter-Johannesgasse 28, Vienna, including a room for two. Prices start at £97. For reservations call 0345 581 444

Lauda Air prices start at £178 return Gatwick-Vienna, or from E182 Manchester-Vienna. Flights must be purchased seven days ahead. For vations call 0845

Festive cheer in Lincolnshire

Gareth Huw Davies discovers how glühwein can

take the stress out of all that shopping

ooming over its miles of low-slung countryside, Lincoln is one of the most surprising cities in England — and for a few days in winter, it also becomes one of the most continental.

in early December, the streets of the ancient centre between the west front of the superb, 900-year-old cathedral and the even older castle - are transformed into a bustling enclave of Central Europe. Lincoln's successful replication of the German and Austrian Christmas market is being observed by other cities. eager to fill the slow period for

This winter. Edinburgh inaugurates its own week-long Christmas market. Other towns and cities have started smaller markets, as councillors return from fact-finding trips to their twin towns with news of how even

small towns in warm glow into their civic bosoms in December. l went from

London to Lincoln for the market last winter. Mindful of potential traffic chaos because of the influx of visitors from all over the East Mid-lands, I turned my trip into a

by train from King's Cross. This is an appropriate way to arrive in a cathedral city: just two hours after a leisurely haul through the flat fenlands, and tea on the train, we pulled into the charmingly antique station, with its graceful period details - semaphore signals, crenellated wooden eaves, golden bricks and grey

pleasant afternoon excursion

and red metalwork. Christmas markets are a loyful illusion, reminiscent of a cosier time in an indeterminate past. They work best beneath warm evening light in "heritage" civic settings. The illusion began to take effect in the film-set railway station. I decided to walk rather than dispel the mood by taking a taxi, which would have driven me up the ugly canyon of a bypass that keeps central Lincoln probably more traffic-free than at any time since the Middle Ages. To find the market. I had only to head for

the sensationally illuminated cathedral on the hill. I walked under the Roman arch, Stonebow, along the Strait and the climb began. Up Steep Hill, where the cobbled way almost took off under my feet. After a precipitous climb — I'm sure the shops here look for resting, as well as passing, trade - I reached the uplands.

In Castle Square, a young clarinettist negotiated the second movement of Mozart's concerto in A Major. Coins tinkled down. Stalls spilled out of the castle grounds, into the surrounding streets and pressed up against the west door of the cathedral. This market has very quickly reached bursting point. It cannot grow any more, at least not spatially. The only expansion available is to let it run longer. As in the German markets, a quarter of the 200 stalls sell food. The organisers paid due acknowledgment

to their inspiraample supplies of Teutonic fare, including unquenchable vats of glühwein, chest-nuts and mince The stalls, a

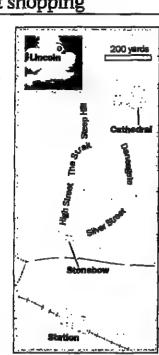
third of them run by professional traders, sell the familiar range of jewellery, craft items and seasonal decorations. There is a big involvement by volunteers and fund raisers. Last year, for example, the Lions Club sold 18,000 lanterns. The market, now in its 16th year, is the

the model for the event came from its German twin. Neustadt an der Weinstrasse, which also supplied the recipe for Lincoln's potent glühwein. The market organisers wisely refrained from drawing a theme from the history that surrounds them in the shape of Roman remains, Norman castle and medieval cathedral. Instead, they opted for a vaguely Dickensian feel, dressing anyone official in

city's biggest single tourist event and has won it three

awards for off-peak tourism.

Victorian costume. There were street entertainers and big, wholesome fairground rides like steam gallopers. This year there will



Lincoln Tourist

Information (01522 529828). Information about Lincoln's Christmas Market s on 01522 511300. National rail inquires (0345 484950t; a day return from London to Lincoln costs £29.50 for travel starting after 9.30am.

Other, smaller, city wents include York's St Vicholas Fayre, from Nov 27 to 30; markets and craft stalls in the heart of the city. Worcester's Victorian Christman market, in the city centre, runs from Dec 46. Lancaster has a festival of Christmas trees: shops will place a decorated tree in their windows, to be judged on December 12. Rochester's Dickension Fair occupies the High Street on December 6-7. Ring 0800 192192 to find the number of your local tourist information centre.

be a touch of pre-war Vienna, in the shape of a 33-metre-high

ferris wheel. Lincoln (and most of the British Christmas markets for markets on length or timing. Nuremberg's market, for example, begins in late Novem-ber and closes at lunchtime on Christmas Eve. Lincoln's fourday market (December 4-7 this

year) ends 18 days before Christmas Day. This, apparently, is because volunteers cannot be expected to give up weeks of their time. In addi-

that matter), disappointingly, does not match the German completed their shopping.

tion, organisers are anxious to spare residents an extended assault by visitors. The timing, at the start of December, results from the obsession with early Christmas shopping in Britain. In

ket was held closer to Christmas, traders found visitors came only to browse, having

If Lincoln was the prototype market, Edinburgh's is one of the first of the production models. The inaugural Christmas market will be held in Princes Street Gardens, with the floodlit castle as backdrop. It opens on December 6 and

A woodcraft stall in Lincoln. Handmade toys have proved as popular in Britain as they are in German markets The organisers, supported by the city council and Lothian and Edinburgh Enterprise, strations will include presentwrapping and cocktail-mak-ing. However, through some gathered ideas at last year's perversity of Scottish law, you Christmas market in Vienna, "We decided it could be done won't be able to buy glühwein

out of doors - only in covered here, but slightly differently, and smaller," said a spokes-It will be some years before Britain's Christmas markets woman. Edinburgh's will be a continental-style Christmas rival their German models, market with 40 stalls selling but even now they are offering things that are not on sale in a gentle introduction to the Princes Street. Festive demon-

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

WHERE DO I START? www.nuernberg.de/ evenis/events.html offers a brief intro to Nuremberg's Christmas Market, while the sparklingly starry site at www.christkindlmarkt.at/ english/index.htm does the same for Vienna. For a listing of North European events leading up to Christmas, including the markets, check out www.seaeurope.com/ events.htm or, for the sole British equivalent, to www.britishadventures. com/britivn12.htm KER-CHING! THE BEST DEAL: For the Hidden Christmas Markets six-day tour in Germany and Strasbourg from £590 (flights extra) visit www.etaeurope.com/hidden/ index.html For a general pick of the best Christmas holiday deals drop by the products.compuserve.co.uk/ ukinsight/page5.htm site. TRAVELLEBS TALES: Read messages and queries from past happy



shoppers at the Nuremberg Market at www.nuernberg .de/events/ckm96/ gruesse e.html complete with electronic rendering of Silent Night) or post your own by emailing webmaster@nuern berg.de See for yourself what Vienna market looks like with photos from Europe's first photoagency on the web - www.atnet.co. at/viennaslide/7361.htm Lincoln's Christmas Market may not be online yet but for a personal guide to Lincoln and its other attractions, check out Michelle Barnes's site at www.hermes?.demon.co uk/lincoln1.htm MUGGING-UP: For a look at Christmas Markets, go to www. eurogastronomy.com/ EN/chapl/themes.html WELL, I NEVER!" Check out live carnera footage of the Christmas Market at Nuremberg, at www.christkindlesmarkt.de/ live/index e.html

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Family beach at the desert's edge



Club Med has shaken off its swinging singles image in Israel.

> as Winifred Blackmore

discovered

first mooted as our holiday destination, I sceptical. Eilat? I could not even pronounce it, let alone pinpoint it on the map. And Club Med? The name conjured up visions of swinging — French — singles purchasing exotic cocktails with beads. Surely not the place for your with two children?

However, Club Med has matured over the years — even mellowed. Resorts are now clearly labelled: singles, couples and, yes, families. Even the beads have gone, abandoned because younger guests had a nasty habit of eating

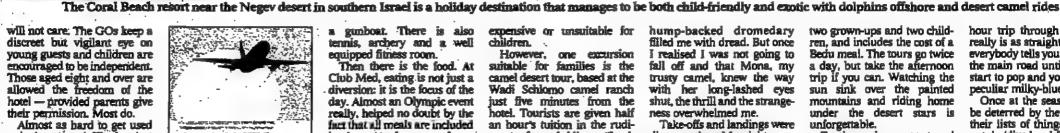
The Club Med at Coral Beach, just up the road from Eilat on the southernmost tip of Israel, is a good example of the new family resort, where guests tailor their holiday to their needs. Sick to death of your kids? Fine. Check them nto the Mini Club, Club Med's answer to daycare. .

Then head for the gym or the beach, confident that they are learning some exciting new skill like archery or minigolf under the expert supervision of the Gentils Organisateurs (GOs) — the group's young beautiful and exceptionally hard-working staff. If. on the other hand, you are your offspring, that is all right, too. At Club Med, nobody has wo join in and nobody is made to feel like a party-pooper for

not participating.

Do not go to Club Med expecting high-tech. There is - gasp - no television. My children, who see the television as the sixth member of our family (after the dog). could hardly believe this. There is also no room service.

Club Med works hard at promoting the image of the hotel as haven: a place where you and your children can be parnpered and kept out of harm's way. This takes some getting used to - but persevere. By about Day Three, when your child wanders off for the umpreenth time, you



to is the scenery. The hotel at Coral Beach looks out across the Gulf of Ellar to the Red Mountains of Jordan. They have a raw look, as though somebody has peeled the skinback, exposing the flesh beneath. In the distance, if you crane your neck, you can see

Turn right outside the hotel, going past the camel-ride man, head down the dusty road for ten miles and you hit Egypt. Even the trip from the airport takes you past King Solomon's Mountains (pink with brown stripes like some giant cassata). The whole desert looks like the red section from an artist's palette: burnt umber and ochre, terracotta and sienna.

There are indications that this is not just another holiday destination, but an important border town in a country not



Jeep full of soldiers along a border patrol route.

But it is not, as I feared. menacing or oppressive; in-deed, given the bloody terrorist attacks on tourists in neighbouring Egypt, the presence of these tough, unamiling Israeli troops is actually

Back at the hotel there is plenty to please. Lie back and sunbathe by the heated pool. For those who prefer the sea, there is a private beach conveniently close to a coral reef and mind-boggling snorkelling. If you fancy learning to windsurf, just make sure you do not get blown across the Gulf into Jordanian waters or you might wind up being

escorted back to your hotel by

gunboat. There is also tennis, archery and a well

Then there is the food. At Club Med, eating is not just a diversion: it is the focus of the day. Almost an Olympic event really, heiped no doubt by the fact that all meals are included in the cost of your package. Breakfast, with brioches, crèpes and croissants, merges nto kunch, which blurs into

French in style, is fine, but the several hours atop a ten-foot best-kept secret is the Menora. the kosher restaurant set on the edge of the beach. The food is sublime: Middle Eastern dips with pitta bread, steak and chicken grilled before your eyes, and falafel that bear no resemblance to the desiccated golf balls you find in this

country.
Outside the hotel, there are plenty of things to do and see. Club Med has its own excursion office where guests can book outings at special rates, ranging from Dolphin Reef (a PC attraction, a part of the sea where dolphins are kept, no humiliating Flipper tricks) to overnight treks to such places as Petra and Jerusalem. Some of the trips were prohibitively

expensive or unsuitable for

suitable for families is the carnel desert tour, based at the Wadi Schlomo camel ranch just five minutes from the hotel. Tourists are given half an hour's tuition in the rudiments of camel riding — "hook your leg round the pommel and hang on for dear life" —

the Arava desert. The prospect of swaying for

nice you have seen

somewhat dated saying

goes. In our opinion we

Greenland in preference

world and if you feel the

consider joining us on a

late summer expedition

adapted Mokhanov.

the Denmark Strait to

cruise aboard the specially

Here we will begin a voyage

the south, following in the wake

of the great Norse settlers who

risked life and limb some 900

years ago when they left the

shores of Iceland and Norway.

Coastal Greenland is marvellous to

behold. Great towering cliffs, walls of

the last great wilderness areas where,

humbling experience as they witness

nature in the raw and look out across

PROFESSOR MOLCHANOV

Built in Finland in 1983 for the

polar and oceanographic research, she

comfortable and well equipped vessel with an ice-strengthened hull, making

her ideal for polar waters.

was refurbished in 1994 and fully fitted

in 1996 for expeditionary travel. She is a

Accommodating a maximum of 52 passengers, the Professor Molchanov is 233

feet in length, has a displacement of 2140

tons and is manned by an experienced

and enthusiastic Russian crew. On board

there is the latest sophisticated navigation

and communication equipment and the

Public areas include a lounge, bar,

library, clinic, sauna and an open bridge.

supervised by European staff are served in

two dining rooms. There are large open

decks and with only a maximum of just

over 50 passengers, the vessel even when

full has a peaceful and money atmosphere.

vessel has the comfort of a passive

The hearty and excellent means,

stabilisation system.

former Soviet Union's programme of

glacial ice, winding fjords, vast ice-

rarity. For most visitors their first

encounter with Greenland is a

a magnificent Arctic world.

same way you should

to most places in the

Jalways go to

Greenland, so the

would rather go to

the world you can

hump-backed dromedary filled me with dread. But once I realised I was not going to fall off and that Mona, my trusty camel, knew the way her long-lashed eyes

shut, the thrill and the strange-

ness overwhelmed me. Take-offs and landings were disconcerting. My eight-year-old daughter, Sian, who rode double with me, insisted it was better if you closed your eyes, but you will want to keep them wide open the rest of the time.

two grown-ups and two children, and includes the cost of a Bedu meal. The tours go twice a day, but take the afternoon trip if you can. Watching the sun sink over the painted mountains and riding home under the desert stars is unforgettable.

For those who want to travel further afield without paying oriented Club Med guide, rent a car (this, too, can be arranged by the hotel) and The price is about £75 for drive to the Dead Sea. The 24- worth the risk.

hour trip through the desert really is as straightforward as everybody tells you: just follow the main road until your ears start to pop and you get to the peculiar milky-blue water.

Once at the seaside, do not be deterred by the signs with their lists of things you must not do (dive head first into the water, splash or ingest any of it) or by the fact that, as my daughter put it, the whole place "smells like bad scram-bled eggs". Like Eilat, it is well



■ Who goes there? In summer: Pyrex-like Israelis not minding

50-degree heat. In winter: Diving fans. Sun-and sex-starved northern Europeans. Israeli OAPs. London cabbies. Cetting the ball rolling Call the Israeli Tourist Office on 0171-299 IIII. On the Internet, visit http://www.inisrael.com/tour Perfect timing: 350 sunny days

a year, so hard to miss out on a

tan. To avoid being overbaked,

stick to "cooler" months outside Jun-Jul-Aug. Unlike Atlantic resorts, sea is always warm. Suitcase strategy: Take out: long, light trousers for camel-riding, hat for desert trips. Bring back: Adidas gear (Israelimade, so it's relatively cheap). Only local liquor is good value - with uplifting

names like Hallelujah! Pound in your pocket 5.5 shekels to the pound. Can pay with credit cards, sterling or dollars nearly everywhere. Don't change money in hotels — change

shops don't charge commission. ■ Turn of phrase: Forget "desert" as sand-dunes: think spectacular coloured mountains, riven by a million wadis (dry river beds). "Shalom", or "peace" is



ravelled to Coral Beach, Eilat. with Club Mol (0171-581 U61), which offers Sunday departures from Luion and Monday departures from Heathrow to Ovda, from

Prices, which include flights, transfers, full board (including drinks with neals), sports and sports miti dilldren's clubs. start at £606 fachalt). £541 (12-17 years), £434 (6-11), £366 (2-5 years) for one week. Club Med also offers free stays for children at off-peak es. Coral Beach is closed for refurbishment and opens on



"hello". Saying "Shabat Shalom" on Friday evenings and Saturdays shows respect for the Jewish sabbath. Permapent musical chorus of Hava Nagila

means "Let's have a good time!" Big no-nos: No smoking in kosher restaurants on the Sabbath. Don't demand milk in your coffee hotel restaurants are all kosher and don't serve dairy products with meat. Don't joke or bridle at the airport security checks: those guys have no sense of humour, but they

are there for your good.

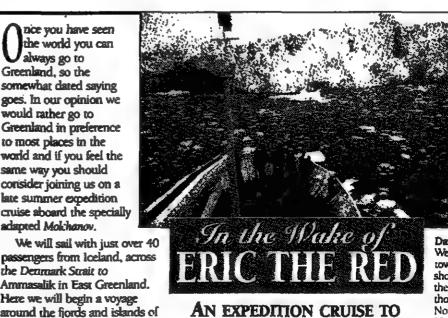
Nasty surprises: Like Ellat flies, "direct" Israelis are pushy and in your face. Israeli music — Europop but worse — more Falafel Fools than

Not to be missed: Scubadiving, with delphins at Delphin Reef. Simulating freefall over a jet engine at Airodium. Camel-trek into King Solomon's Wadi. ■ Way to go: Only El Al (0171-957

4100) runs scheduled flights direct to Ovda airport, 60 mins drive to Eilat, from £324. Unijet (0990 114114) offers £119 return charter fares from Gatwick. If flying from Israel, call domestic carrier Arkia (00 972 3690 34724.

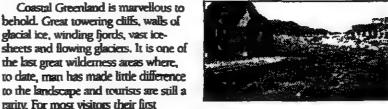
■ Any good packages? Peltours (0181-343 0590) currently has best deal: £229pp for a week B&B. Thomson, through Portland Direct (0990 002200), charges £295 for a week B&B at Hotel Caesar. For huxury, Longwood Travel (0181-551 4494) offers the best price for a week at King Solomon Palace (£369) or at the Dan Hotel (£479). II Dull but essential: No visas necessary for Israel. For daytrips into Egypt or Jordan, visas are obtained on the spot. Don't get your passport stamped, to avoid

problems entering other countries. SUSANNAH JOWITT



AN EXPEDITION CRUISE TO SOUTHERN GREENLAND ABOARD THE PROFESSOR MOLCHANOV

5th to 15th September 1998



Looking after the day to day rogramme aboard will be the expedition eader and his team. There will be no formal entenzinment, but the expedition team will organise briefings and talks and the library will be equipped with a good selection of reading and board/card games. For our forays ashore we will use the vessel's Zodiac craft allowing us great Besibility and the ability to reach otherwise inaccessible places with great ease. This is a voyage undertaken in the spurt of discovery, with a view to making your experience an extraordinary one.

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Day 1 London to Reykjavik. Early afternoon flight with Icelandair. Drive to the Mokhanov at nearby Keflavik Embark and sail.

Day 2 At sea. Crossing the Denmark

Day 3 Ammasalik, Situated on an island which lies across the mouth of a fjord, Ammasalik is the main population centre on the vast East Greenland Coast. The town and sutrounding region supports approximately 5,000 souls in an extraordinarily beautiful area. There will be an opportunity to explore the town and also for a walk through some stunning scenery of lakes and waterfalls.

The walkers will rejoin the repositioned

day of exploration in this vast flord looking out for narwhals and teebergs. We will also visit a small settlement Days 5 &r 6 South East Greenland Coast. Today

vessel in Sermilik Fjord.

Day 4 Sermilik Fjord. A

this magnificent, deeply indented and ice-covered coastline is uninhabited. We will make a couple of forays ashore in the ice-free places such as Skjoldungen and Tingmarmult, where we will find remains of old Eskimo settlements. Day 7 Prins Christian's Sund.

We will enter this food with its towering mountainous sides as a short-cut to the West Coast and the Henolisnaes settlement. This is thought to be the place of the first Norse village in Greenland. See the 13th century church which was excavated in the 1920's and some well preserved examples of Norse clothing which were discovered in the permairost under the church. This was probably the first trading post in Greenland and dates back

to the 10th century.

Day 8 Unartoq Island/Nanortalik. On the island of Unarrog you can swim and laze in Greenland's finest natural hot springs (42°C) amidst wonderful scenery in its autumnal colours. Later visit the largest collection of Inuit ruins in West Greenland. Time permitting we will also visit Nanonalik, a charming town with a delightful picture-postcard harbour, set against the immense granite peaks and spires of the surrounding mountains. Days 9 & 10 At sea. Excellent opportunities to see the migration of the northern birds and the chance of wimessing the splendour of the Northern Lights.

Day 11 Keflavik to London. Disembark

after breakfast and return to London with lcelandair, arriving in the late morning. Prices per person from £1895

in a twin bedded cabin and from £2395 for a single cabin. Price includes: Economy class air travel, 10

rughts aboard the Prof Mokhanov on full board, shore excursions, entrance lees, transfers, landing fees, port taxes, expedition staff, UK departure tax. Not included: Travel insurance, airport taxes,

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SKI WEEKEND: TAKING T

Sloping off in a class of their own



Don't say cheese, say fromage: some members of the junior ski school at Val d'Isère line up with their instructor to be immortalised in their class photograph;

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Classical Journey of India and Nepal 18 days - from £2195 Splendours of the East 13 days - from £1295 Feudal Rajasthan 15 days - from £1256 Splendours of the South 12 days - from £1245 Southern Trader 16 days - from £1756

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wnich is irienaly to families and you can feel sure your children will be in safe

> hands, says Felice Eyston

every skiing parent. I was on an icy mountain road in the gathering dusk standing beside a bro-ken-down hire car. My children would be waiting for me at the ski school, by now deserted, in the small French resort of Vaujany, at least a half-a-dozen bends away on the road above me.

Six hours earlier, in glorious April sunshine, I had left my youngest son, Barney, in the kindergarren and Max, eight, with his ski class, before going to explore a neighbouring resort. I planned to return in plenty of time to retrieve them both at 4pm. But a sudden change in the weather covered the approach road with 18 inches of fresh snow.
I had fixed chains, but

halfway back one of them snapped and wrapped itself around the axle. By the time I reached my hotel on foot cold, sodden and concerned darkness had fallen.

My worry was needless. The ski teacher had contacted the English nanny from Ski Peak,

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FREE CHILD PLACES plus up to **£200** per person off selected brochure prices

Half board

Half board

Room only

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Learning about the snow business: children in the kindergarten at Avoriaz get to play around with toboggans.

our tour operator. She had scooped up the boys and there they were, fed and watered, and happily playing before bedtime. It was a dramatic reminder that absolutely no aspect of a family skiing holiday should be left to chance. The younger your children, the more important it is to choose a resort and a tour operator geared towards

three family resorts are in France. I have encountered surly staff there which can more than offset a kindergarten's good points. It is not unusual to see weary parents (myself included) desperately

£248 £259 £289

£289

£299

£299

trying to deposit their unwill-ing — and often screaming — offspring at a kindergarten. In Italy, three generations of the same family tend to holi-day together, with the result that crèche facilities are usually non-existent. So unless you can take along a nanny or granny, you are probably bener advised to look elsewhere. Switzerland has higher prices, although sterling's strength has made it more

Your first task is to to select

a country. Austria has attractive villages which, typically, have onion-domed churches,

gentle slopes and family-run hotels. France offers some of

the best-equipped creches in the Alps, with sparkling nurs-eries and fenced-off outdoor

play areas. Although my top

affordable this year, and the wonderfully efficient staff make you feel that the extra cost is justified. A newcomer to the British family skiing market is Nor-way, which is fast becoming

one of the most child-friendly countries. Safety is taken seri-ously here, with helinets actively encouraged and children's ski areas closed to adults. Isabella, my 18-month-old daughter, loved the Troil Club kindergarten in Geilo, where each day she was swept up into the ample arms of a forgot about me as soon as her back was turned.

The ski school was well organised and all the instructors spoke good English. To the delight of my six-year-old, Barney, all the members of his class were given colourful Lycra Viking hats to cover their helmets.

da and the United States is a long way ahead of the Alpine equivalent. Each resort has lacilities for all ages, the staff really seem to make time for your child and the kindergartens are always flexible.

• Felice Eyston is co-editor of the Good Skiing & Snowboarding Guide 1998 (Which Books, £15.99). She has three children aged between two and nine, and three stepchildren aged between 16 and 24.

GETTING THERE

HAVING picked your resort, you must then decide where to stay. Chalets offer the most practical solution for a family wishing to provide tea after skiing followed by an early children's supper.

It may be cheaper to rent an apartment, but the downside is that someone has to do the shopping and cooking while at

Staying in a hotel can involve expensive extras such as Vaujany (France) Courchevel (France)

TOP RESORTS

Les Arcs (France) Morzine (France)

sterilisers are bulky to take along, so check they are pro-vided. Trying to buy your usual brand of nappies or milk formula in a resort can be difficult, and the French do not appear to use baby wipes. so take your own.

THE ideal age to learn to ski A tour operator's "ski school escort service" or afternoon "kids' club" is invaluable. Under this system, nannies pick children up from ski school for lunch and then either deliver them back at lessons in the afternoon or entertain them with making snowmen, walks, tobogganing, ice-skating and games until the end of the adults'

THEY will need ski courses or snowboarding lessons. Club Med was the first to run evening clubs so parents could relax before dinner. Other tour operators are following, Continued on page 29



hardly a relaxing experience if

you have to spend your time preventing your little ones from disturbing other guests.

AS expert care is required,

nannies employed by special-ist tour operators are the best

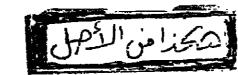
solution. Baby accessories

such as cots, potties, baby alarms, bottle warmers and

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D SATURDAY NONEMBER DA



I WEEKEND: TAKING THE CHILDREN

Child's play on the nursery slopes

Jane Owen whisks her daughters off for an Alpine odyssey - taking care that they are not witness to her first skiing efforts in eight years

t is a white-out at the top of a red run in St Anton on my first morning's And I am sharing this experience with a group of strangers: company, the head of a record company, an accountant to the

You get the picture: Big Cheeses with wobbly kneeses. We share a common bond: we all have children.

In fact, we all have small children, many of whom have never before skied, and we all want to ski - so we have chosen a holiday with one of several companies now trying to meet the needs of the family. I am the exception because I am a single parent.

like me, my children are robust, but I have never been happy about letting them out of my sight on holiday since the time Rose, then aged three, managed to open the window of her fourth-floor bedroom and crawl out on to the parapet where she was spotted by a couple in a neighbouring hotel, waving happily. I was in the dining room downstairs. and the children were on listening service to the hotel

ack on the infernal (well, freezing) mountain. Rose, now seven; and Miranda, six, are several lift rides away on the nursery slopes with a nice instructor (French and noncombative) and a nanny from the Mark Warner Chalethotel

Fears about their safety are momentarily superseded by selfish fear of the slope in front with the rep shouting: "It's great, nobody else is here!" Well, of course — nobody else is stupid enough to ski in a

white-out with slushy snow.
I have a spectacular 30metre fall, bounce - and then cheer up, as I have beaten

TOP RESORTS

1.71

13 (150)

100 miles

100

STJ S YEAR OUS

......

everyone else to the bottom. Come lunchtime, Rose and our chalet by the name. I wobble across to Hospiz-Alm in St Christoph, where glorious young men in leather britches serve gargantuan platters — the spare ribs look like half a pig.
Of all the lunch places in the

area, this is the best, and it has a built-in, adult-sized slide



Jane Owen with daughters Miranda and Rose, plus playmate Lucy and grandfather

FACTILE

with Mark Warner Holidays (0171-393 3168)

Rosanna, St Anton.

a room, including

flights, accommodation half-board and

transfers) and rise to £787 during school half-term

holidays in February, Cos for a child between the

ages of 2 and 15, sharing

ess then the adult price

5kd and boot hire

St Anton a Arlberg.

from Ski Sport Fauner,

Tirol Austria (00 43 5446

appear downstairs for my evening meal with the grown-

ups - normally I eat with the

makes me "sign on" to indicate

that I require babysitting, so

that she will listen outside the

children's door when she does

her rounds every quarter of an

already made Best Priends

with Lucy, another child stay-

ing in the chalethotel, on the

Rose and Miranda have

2413) costs £64 per child and £95 per adult.

down to the loos. Post-lunch and glühwein, I slip down (OK, I tumble and fall down) to the nursery slopes, where Rose and Miranda are doing pizza pies, known as snow ploughs in my day. No ski sticks of course, and quite

happy. A nanny, spotting me lurking near the nursery slopes pretending that I am waxing my skis/testing my bindings/doing warm-up exercises, patiently explains, using all her copious diplomatic skills, that Rose and Miranda are very happy.

They can choose sledging or snowman-making or anything else during the afternoon and should anything happen to them — which it won't — they will be able to reach me. OK. OK, so I should stop

interfering.
All children are collected atabout 4 o'clock whether or not the parents have been interfering. By this time, the ski boots and the children are in dry clothes, Magically,

I have had nothing to do with this laborious process. Parents bring offspring to high tea at five ish, all prepared and set out by the nannies (the tea, that is). Bath, reading and bed for

Rose and Miranda, and when

coach from the airport (children's videos all the way. much to the disgust of some of the child-free guests) and so I guess they might try to visit her while the grown-ups are revelling downstairs. No way. They are sound asleep, worn which sleeps up to 89, start at E399 for one week per adult (based on two sharing out by the skiing.

Older children - and mine on one evening when they were not completely exhausted - watch videos in the nursery while their parents dine downstairs.

Aprës ski . . . perhaps not. I felt too ancient, and anyway the company at the chalet was brilliant

Some parents spend one day towards the end of the week skling with the children. I vow never to let Rose and Miranda see me ski. It would put them off for life. And terrify them. So, while mums and dads whiri down slopes with little people between their legs, Rose and Miranda and I take a day out to build snowmen

Parents (and one set of grandparents) I spoke to gave almost full marks to this childand-parent-friendly holiday. The only complaints were the quality of the inclusive wine (staggering in every sense) and the fact that the charter flight was a day late on the return



Never too young to start: and when children tire of the slopes, they can always go sledging or make a snowman

Continued from page 28 with Snowbizz Vacances (01778 341455) offering a Junior Ski Club for six to ten-yearolds. The Ski Club of Great Britain (0181-410 2000) has "specials" in the school holidays and at half-term. Top Ski (00 334 7906 1480) in Val d'isère arranges courses for children: The Thomson British Ski Academy in Les France (01932 242882) is for budding racers.

ACCEPTANCE IS NOT THE resort to suit them and you will have plenty of après-

exorbitant prices. Val d'Isère. Courchevel. St Antion and Verbier are the hottest resorts for this age group. Club Med (0171-581 1161) has a flexible programme for teenagers during the French school holidays and McGarry's Teen Top Race Clinics (0181-399 5823)

TOUR operator crèches generally take over the whole floor of an apartment or chalet, or a

ski, but not all of it at and most will care for children. from six months to six years of age. The opening hours are approximately 9am to 4.30pm. A good crèche should provide all the baby hardware, as well as toys, games, materials for creative play, books and videos. Before booking a nanny service you need to ask: are held in Châtel. Is the company offering its own service with an NNEB or equivalent qualified nanny, or

is the creche the local kindergarten in disguise? • Is the service for five or six days? As a week's holiday constitutes six full days. large hotel room. They are staffed by qualified nannies, childcare needs to cover the whole period, otherwise you SKISHOOT-OFFSHOOT will be left holding the baby. Is lunch provided? It is inconvenient to have to collect your children at lunchtime and return them afterwards. particularly in a large ski

> class or care for them until the end of the day. Check how many children are looked after by each nanny. Ratios of nannies to children vary, with operators quoting an average of one nanny to two or three babies (under two years), or one namny to three or four children (aged two to five).

area. At the best creches, staff

escort children from morning ski school, give them lunch,

and either return them to their

 Some tour operators employ private nannies who might ideally be shared by two families. The nanny will come to your chalet with toys and games, take your children for walks and cook lunch. If you are staying in a

chalet, the staff will normally prepare an early supper for children and your tour operator or the local tourist office should be able to arrange evening babysitting.

CHECHES AND

KINDERGARTERS THESE may be less flexible than the tour operator versions, and staff fluency in English varies, I was 15 minutes late taking my son to a crèche in France and was told that he therefore could not join the morning session and should return after lunch.

which meant no skiing for me.

The North American kindergartens are the leaders by a long stretch, although one French resort is their equal: the state-of-the-art Garderie in Vaujany. Here children can be dropped off and collected at any time of day, and older children are accompanied between creche and ski school.

WHAT TO TAKE

WHEN taking children for the first time, borrow clothing from friends and hire boots and skis in the resort. But it is worth investing in a warm ski jacket which is useful for the courney, after skiing and at home. A jacket and salopettes are more flexible than a onepiece suit and essentials include Thinsulate or Gore-Tex mittens, a hat and goggles. Helmets are vital for pre-teens, and do not send your child out skiing with suncream of less than factor 15, whatever the weather.

In North America, you will almost definitely experience much lower temperatures than in Europe, with the east coast resorts and Canada the coldest of all. Your children will need glove liners to wear under mittens, plus thermal vests and long johns or an allin-one fleece.

The Canadian skiwear manufacturer Couloir is known for its scientific clothing for adults, and you can now buy child-sized versions in branches of Snow & Rock (mail order: 01932 569569) at £99.95 for a one-piece suit.

SURVIVING FLYING is the quickest, but often the most stressful, way to travel. Avoid resorts with long airport-transfer times. Driving to the French Alps may be easier and cheaper — with two drivers you can tackle the journey in a single day. Eurostar (0345 303030) is a serious contender with a daytime Saturday service from Waterloo to Moûtiers and

Bourg-St-Maurice. If you are hiring a car at the other end, take your own baby seat. The extra rental cost is vided is rarely the right size.

The following tour operators have a

Airtours (01706 260000) Snowflake Club at Les Deux Alpes five days a week. Chub Med (0171-58) 1161) Sixteen holiday villages with own creches and ski schools six days a week. Cot and

czeche or nanny service.

potty provided in every hedroom, sterilisers and food mixers available. ■ Collineige (01276 2426.2) Small, flexible operator to Chamonix Valley with a nanny and local au pair.

Crystal (0181-399 5144) Nanny service five days a week in 13 resorts. One night's free babysitting. Escort service, lunchtime care for older children.

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OPERATORS

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service on the sixth day.

week. Escort service and after-skiing activities five days a week. Free child supervision six evenings per week. Ski Olympic (01302 390120) Flexible service with creche with lunch in three resorts for six days per week. Ski Peak (01252 794941) Specialist operator to Vaulany with flexible creche six days a week. Children's supper and babysitting by arrangement Ski Scott Dunn (0181-767 0202) Creche in Courchevel 1850. six days a week with lunch. Escort service for creche. ski school and ski kindergarten. Private

Criches in Les Gets and Sall six days a

nanny service in Val d'Isère, Méribel and Zermail. ■ Snowbizz Vacances (01778 341455) Flexible crèche in Puy-St-Vincent six days per week, children bring their own lunch. Kids' club six evenings per week. Snowline Holidays (0181-870 4807) Nanny service in chalets and hotel in Champoussin including lunch. Thomson (0990 329329) Sixteen Family Choice resorts. Kids' Clubs in ten resorts. Après-ski care and entertainment three evenings a week. Babysitting by arrangement.



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Eyes left: dedicated birders flock together in large numbers whatever the season, creating a spectacle of themselves

Dawn chorus on a wing and a prayer

n the hour before daybreak, darkness intensifies, the insects fall silent, and The Gambia's tropical pungency de-clines to no more than a delicate, anaemic trace. The streets are lifeless. Anyone with a mind to be up at this time of the morning could claim dominion over Banjul, for even the night-watchmen are asleep. curled tight in shuttered shop

Driving through the capital in the open back of a Land Rover. I have no such design. My primary pur-pose is to reach Lamin Lodge, a rustic riverside restaurant, before first light. With the eastern sky beginning to lighten, the vehicle's progress is ticked away by the pendulum swing of the binoculars dangling from my neck.

The lodge is a 30-minute drive south of Banjul, along the airport road and then a short stretch of

against the blossoming dawn.

On foot, I am directed across a pier to a creaky, Swiss Family Robinson piece of architecture built on two stilts over water. I am soon joined by 30 other tourists collected from a succession of beachside resorts and we sit hushed, sipping coffee and listening to the tentative first notes of the dawn chorus.

When there is enough light, we are ushered into a trio of dug-outs fashioned from the trunks of the kapok, Africa's largest tree, and cast off into what is now revealed to be a broad mangrove creek. The tide is steadily rolling in and the oarsmen - one to a boat - labour against it as they paddle us to midstream. Our departure is heralded by a fly-past of rose-necked parakeets

rutted dirt track. Eventually it appears ahead of us: an inky, ramshackle silhouette etched books. With a lifetime of experience. he can instantly identify species by their jizz — an instinctive amalgam of shape, sound and movement. Despite our more analytical approach, we never catch him out.

The mangrove channels fraying both banks of the River Gambia have contributed to this tiny nation's legend among international birdwatchers. More than 200 species (out of The Gambia's total of 540) have been recorded within these labyrinthine waterways. Some of the birds are familiar,

either winter migrants from Europe (accounting for a third of the country's species) or variations on common themes - pigeons, pied crows, black magpies and nine types of kingfisher.

There are also plenty of African Solomon, our guide, identifies a specialities. For many of the partici-

Who's a pretty boy then: male rose-necked parakeet, inhabitant of The Gambia pants, this voyage delivers first sightings of the violet touraco, the African harrier hawk and, engaged in a memorable mid-air tussle with a vociferous mob of grey-headed guils, the palm-nut vulture.

mangroves, the dawn And the avian traffic above us begins to ease. The boats glide drowsily forward. Solomon sits alert, picking out flutterings on either bank. Then, close to an islet, he stops the oarsmen, silences our idle chatter and points into the undergrowth.

The significance of what is going on is initially apparent only to the fundamentalist birders among us. Their urgent interest overwhelms any instincts to keep the boats on a steady keel. Focusing through bin-oculars, they lean and bob in search

of a clean view through the mess of vegetation; the dug-outs rock

precariously. I am slow to pick out the object of all this attention. Some moments pass before I spot a large eye gazing out from among the chaotic man-grove roots, and I am gradually able to decipher the form of our quarry. My field guide confirms it is, as Solomon assures us, a rarely seen

white backed night heron.
At the back of my boat, a pinkfaced twitcher from Yorkshire declares himself to be "dead chuffed" with the encounter. This is his second visit to The Gambia. He is already planning to come back for thirds. "I see something new every time," he said. "This is the birding gateway to Africa."

It is this gathering reputation that has encouraged The Gambia's tourist industry to begin developing ecotourism alongside the country

well established package tours. The two are not mutually exclusive.

aradise for twitchers: violet touraco, left, an African speciality, and the rarely seen white-backed night heron, right

In the grounds of the Atlantic Hotel, I stalk away from the odours of suntan lotion and the splashes of divers in the swimming pool to explore the hotel's own bird garden. Here is a dappled, peaceful place all a-flitter with firefinches and redcheeked cordon-bleus. In this nursery for budding twitchers, a whole new vocabulary can be learnt and from here it is but a short step to dedicated birding safaris and 5am

wake-un calls. In the hotel lobby, the latest batch of package arrivals are checking in and I view them with fresh understanding. After all, what is the modern tour if not the latest incarnation of an ancient, natural instinct? When the European winter bites, fly south to Africa.

RICHARD NEWTON

FACT FILE

Richard Newton travelled with The Gambia Experience (01703 730888). The company operates birdwatching tours escorted by Clive Barlow, author of Field Guide to Birds of the Gambia (Pica Press, £26). The tours use the Banjul-based agent West African Tours.

A one-week birdwatching tour costs £774 etween January



1-21. Prices rise to £866 at Easter, to include flights, all transport, two nights at the Atlantic Hotel and camp hut accommodation, on a hulf-board basis.

While birdwatching is a yearround activity in The Gambia, the best times to go are before the rains (which come in June), or during the winter months (Nov-Jan) for the best viewing of migrants.

Watch out for the bald spot

kiing will bring more visitors to Whistler this winter than ever before.

Most will miss the sign to Squamish. Whistler's poorer neighbour, on the Sea to Sky Highway 40 miles north of Vancouver. Yet the dense hemlock, fir and cedar forest abutting Route 99 conceals a spectacle worthy of a trip to the

British Columbian coast. Every year, between November and March, the world's greatest concentration of bald eagles descends on a few miles of the Squamish River. The birds come in their thousands from Alaska, the Yukon, northern British Columbia, Montana and Arizona, flying up to 4,000 miles at summer's end to feast on returning chum salmon. About 80 per cent of these eagles congregate on a six-mile stretch of the river and its tributaries, the Cheakamus and Mamquam. in 1994, 3,769 eagles were counted here on a single January day — the highest concentration of bald eagles in the world.

Bald eagles are rare birds. Though one of the United

Golden

more than just another destination.

1990 department, prices and shape supp.

May 7, 14, 21, 28 1695

China

Birders who yearn to see a bald eagle should visit the Squamish River, British Columbia, in winter

States's favourite symbols of strength and stability, the birds were hunted and poisoned to near-extinction before the 1960s. Even today few people, bird enthusiasts included, have ever seen a baid eagle so it is quite a thrill to see several, let alone hundreds, in a single day. The eagles, for their part, seem to be getting used to the sight of tourists dressed in orange life-jackets and perched precariously on the edge of lurid yellow rafts.

Squamish morning when we go eagle-spotting. The air is rank from the smell of rotting salmon on the gravel bars the fish die in their hundreds of thousands after the long journey up the river to spawn. Two groups of visitors spot their first bald eagle within minutes of taking to the water. The excitement appears to be one-sided as the bird sits unmoved by the noise of

it sponed us half an hour before we saw it. It is a typically damp, raw

frantic whispers and a dozen

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undulating hills around Guilin. All these are in addition to the

usual highlights of the Middle Kingdom - Xian's Terracotta Army,

the waterfront of Shanghai, the gardens and canals of Suzhou and the magical

cruise through the spectacular Li River of Guilin. At CTS Horizons, China is

shutter releases. One of my fellow passengers wonders whether the eagle has seen us. Our guide explains that an eagle can see a rabbit move from a mile away, and that an eagle flying at 1,000 feet can see prev over an area of three square miles. The chances are

Biologists from the Nature Conservancy of Canada have been studying the eagles' habits for four winters. The birds have been coming since the salmon began arriving to spawn -long before Captain George Vancouver set foot here in 1792; probably before the Squohomish people began hunting in the valley they called Squamish, or "mother

of the wind". The Squamish is one of the few rivers that has a late chura run. The spoils represent a huge source of food accessible

A classic tour of the Middle

Ungdom with the number one

expert and specialists

from November through to February on a river that does not freeze. For the next three months eagles will daily gorge themselves, devouring up to a tenth of their body weight in

fish — as much as half a kilo. By the end of February the feast is over, but a few eagles remain in the valley for the summer. Breeding birds de-fend large territories to raise their young. In winter, territories break down, amply illustrated by cottonwoods wilting under the weight of so many raptors, six or seven to a tree,

perched like chandeliers. From a raft it is hard to miss some of their habits. Eagles are creatures of precision. While gulls rip indiscriminately through rotting salmon carcasses, bald eagles first eat the eyes and then, via a swift incision, scoop out the brain. They appear to be little bothered by gulls and crows. A few take flight at the sight of our bright rafts but most remain regally on their perches, eye-

ing their next meal.

Pairs mate for life, though affairs are possible - usually in the first year of "marriage", according to biologists. Yournger eagles (identified by their lack of white head plumage — bald eagles minus the bald spot) sit on lower branches, apparently leaving better van-tage points for older birds.

By journey's end, estimates of bald eagles seen vary between 500 and 800 depending on which boat's crew you believe. But exact numbers do not matter - this is one of the great sights of nature.

NEVILLE JUDD

FACTFILE

Human correschment on the eagles' habitat is an important part of scientists research. Rafting is considered one of the less obtrusive ways of seeing them; there are also eagle watching programmes on foot with volunteer guides.

Eagles are best seen from viewing shelters on the Squamish River at Brackendale, north of Squamish off Highway 99. Ragle warden volunters are available 9.30aur-3:30pm on weekends from

December 13 to February 15. For more information, details, call the Squamish Chamber of Commeste (00) 604 892 9349.

If The Canadian Ontines Adventure Company (00) 800 Sés 873S) offers guided river raft trips for about £45 0 DOGERUM OTHER DOCK including lench. It also offers "Eagle Festival" two-night packages with Vancouver hotel

■ Brackendale-ba Funwell Continor Centre (001 604 898 1537) offers a "Sleep with Eagles" package for about £85 for two (double occupancy), with cabin accommodation and float trip.

III The eagle population peaks in early Jamusty, when Brackendair isosts the month-long Winter Eagle

■ Squamish is between Vancouver and Whistler and less than an boss's drive on Highway 99 from either. It is better known to rimbers for the Strwamus Chief, the world's second largest monolith after the Ruck of Gibraltur.



Spot the birdie: bald eagles can see their prey over an area of three square miles

WHERE TO SPOT A BIRD IN WINIER

FOR most birders the dream destination has to be the Seychelles. With 115 islands to choose from, the best choice is a combination of Mahe, Prastin and La Digue. From here, additional day excursions can be made to Cousin and Aride. For the unforgettable experience of seeing more than a million sooty terms on their nests, an overnight stay on Bird Island is recommended.

However, the ultimate "Grip-off" (slang for incurring the envy of all your colleagues) is to see the Seychelles magnie robin on Cousin or Fregate. With just 40 or so left in the wild, this is now one of the world's rarest birds.

It is only recently that The Gambia's potential for bird-watching has been fully recognised. The Abuko Forest,

only eight miles from the capital of Banjul, combines the ingredients of tropical forest, lily-covered pools and savannah grassland. Among the most attractive birds here are the kinglish-

ers including giant, pygmy and pied. Nearly one million Britons travel to Florida every year although relatively few will be looking for birds. Yet just next to the Cape Kennedy space centre is the extensive Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, where many hundreds of herons and egress nest. This is also a staging post for migrant wading birds that on their journeys to

and from South America, To escape completely from the depths of winter and also experience the holiday of a lifetime, the best choice

must be Australia. The state of Queensland, in particular, offers a remarkable range of habitats with tropical forests and coral reefs meeting at the coastline near Cairns. Among the most elusive forest birds is the southern cassowary - an ostrich-like species with a reputation for feroclous attacks on

humans who get too close.

A three-week trip to Australia can yield a list of nearly 400 species. One highlight is a visit to the Great Barrier Reef, and specifically to the tiny coral sand spit called Michelmas Cay, Here you will land in the middle of a massive colony of sea birds, including

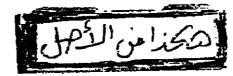
common noddies. Closer to home are two excellent lakes that lie about 80 miles east of

Paris. The Lac Der du Chantecoq and Lac de la Foret d'Orient were built to take excess water from the rivers Marne and Seine so flooding in Paris could be prevented. Now they are the winter home for several white-tailed sea eagles and up to 300 common cranes. This is a popular choice for weekend breaks by car. But be warned: it can be cold, and visitors should take thermal clothing.

KEITH BETTON

 Specialist bird-watching holiday ompanies include: Naturetrek (01962 733051): Birdquest (01254 826317): Wildwings (0117-984 8040): Sunbird (01767 682969): Limosa (01263 578143):





Star trekkers' rewarding mission



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2010

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Mike Gerrard braves the wrath of a pride of lions

on an African adventure - all for

a worthy cause

uphoric was how Rita Hamilton-Burgin felt. A different word might have been expected from someone who had just walked 120 miles in six days in temperatures of up to 120 degrees, especially as she had never before done anything more energetic than walking her dogs in West Sussex. But she was emphatic: "You feel you've got Africa coming up through the soles of your feet."

Rita and her husband Stephen, a cabinet-maker, had joined myself and 23 others for a sponsored walk in the Great Rift Valley in Tanzania, while 18 more were nearby doing a sponsored climb to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Together, the two groups raised £40,000 for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and that is a small proportion of the hundreds of thousands of pounds being raised these days for charities through sponsored hikes and bike

From Ireland to China from Iceland to Uganda, today's holiday trend is to combine a good time with a

It was a tough time, too, as those on Trek Tanzania discovered. It was unseasonably hot in September and even the Masai who accompanied the walk were complaining about

walking group and its two Massi guides. To rein-You feel force the warning, you've got a lion was heard rearing outside our first night's camp Africa in the bush. A tent has never felt so coming up flimsy, but the guards chased it through away. At one time a Masai man had to kill a lion with his bare hands before

he could become a warrior, a feat achieved by a rose with the sun, foot-slogged group of them surrounding a lion at night, chanting and dancing as they closed in on the animal, until the would-be

warrior plunged in for the kill.
It is one of the few Masai traditions to have died out, as we discovered while talking to our guides on the walk, or round the campfire at night. Our occasional pains — blisters, scratches from the fear-



The two groups that took part in Trek Tanzania, accompanied by Masai guides, raised £40,000 for the NSPCC. Donations are also made to local eye clinics, where sight-saving operations

upsets - were dwarfed by this and other delights: walking by a family of giraffe, past herds of zebra, visiting a Masai village in part of the Rift Valley The route took us through seldom seen by trekkers, lion territory, and no one was watching the sun rise in the allowed to stray from their morning, walking 20 miles

> your feet' toughest of all. We for hours over a desert-like scrub where shade was something we could only dream about, then our footsteps ech-

oed over Lengai's hardened

lava, where the white bones of cattle lay scorched by the sun. Finally we reached the shade of an acacia tree and rested, exhausted, before hauling ourselves over the last small ridge to the camp, and





While crossing Tanzania on foot is exhausting, it also has its rewards, such as a giraffe sighting (left); trekkers take a break near the Mountain of God (right)

the promise of the cold river running beside it. It was the hardest walk of my life, and the most reward-

looked at my £90 walking boots, and the cut-up bits of

old car tyre some of our Masai guides were wearing.
I thought of the village school we visited, where there ing week I have ever spent. I

where we handed over a

cheque for \$5,000 (about £3,000): the NSPCC supports a local Masai project each year from the money raised. was no chalk for the blackboard, and of the eye clinic,

Our \$5,000 would pay for more than 800 cataract operations, restoring the sight of blind Masai. We may not have much ourselves, but compared with the people who live in places like rural Tanzania, to borrow a phrase from Paul Simon's song, we really have got diamonds on the soles of

our shoes. And by pounding the earth or pumping the pedals with them in a good cause, we can at least hope to make a bit of difference. ■ The NSPCC's Trek

£1,975, and you will be asked

Further information from Megan Munsell (0171-825 3605).

Diana dresses go on display to raise funds

"SHE was a wonderful woman", said Maureen Rorech, whose collection of 14 dresses once owned by Diana, Princess of Wales, went on display at the Tampa Museum of Art in Florida this week, writes Tom Chesshyre.

Ms Rorech decided to exhibit the dresses, which she bought at a Christie's charity auction in June in London, to help raise funds for charities including AIDS, cancer and children's groups, and the Red

Among the dresses on display are: a blue silk dinner dress that the Princess wore when she danced with John Travolta at the White House: a burgundy velvet dinner dress which she wore to the preview of Back to the Future in 1985; and a classic white dinner dress by Catherine Walker first worn when Diana met the King and Queen of

Malaya in 1993. The dresses cost Ms Rorech, from Long Island in New York, \$870,000. "I was greatly saddened when Diana died," she said. "And I decided to use my collection to follow in her footsteps to raise money for deserving causes."

The display stays in Tam-pa until December 7 before moving to a museum in Athens in Georgia, and then Washington DC, early next year. It is scheduled to reach London in June 2000.

More than 3,500 tickets at \$11.50 (about £7) each have been sold in advance. Media attention has been lavish and on opening day the display room was packed.

• Internet site: www. princessdigowns.com Tampa Museum of Art: 001 813 274 8130



The Princess in blue silk

JOINING a charity holiday generally involves paying a registration fee of £200-£300. You also commit yourself to raising a certain amount in donations and

sponsorship, usually £2,000-£3,000. The registration and sponsorship pays for all the costs of the trip, except for personal spending money. The remainder goes to the charity. Oxfam. for instance, raised £80,000 from one such holiday last spring, while Guide Dogs for the Blind benefited by £100,000 when 95 people joined their summer bike ride in Russia. Some of the charity treks and bike rides planned for 1998 include:

JAN 30-FEB 8 HELPS (01273 453511), Health **Education Literacy Population Services**; it supports and educates women and children in southern India. Charity walk in India covers 86 miles from Bangalore to Mysore. Registration £200, sponsorship £2,000.

National Deaf Children's Society (0171-490 8656). Bike ride through Jordan from Amman to Aqaba. Registration £200, sponsorship £2,000.

FEB 21-MARCH I The Children's Society (0171-278 5769). Egyptian Experience bike ride. Registration £250, sponsorship £1,975.

MARCH 7-15 and OCT 17-25 Norwood Ravenswood (0181-954 4555), charity for socially disadvantaged children. Kenya Experience cycling safari. Registration £400, sponsorship

NCH Action for Children (0171-704 7019). The Big Bike Ride, from the Pyramids to the Red Sea.

Registration £220, sponsorship £2,000. MARCH 21-28 ASPIRE (0181-954 0701). the Association for Spinal Injury Research Rehabilitation and Reintegration. Trek from the Red Sea to the top of Mount Sinai. Registration: £195,

CHARITY BEGINS ON HOLIDAY

sponsorship £2,000. MARCH 28-APRIL 5 British Heart Foundation (0500 200 575). Jordan Desert Hike. Registration £250, sponsorship £2.150.

APRIL 25-MAY 3 Norwood Ravenswood (0282 954 4555). Bike ride from Mount Sinai to Jerusalem. Registration £400. sponsorship £2,000. Repeated in Oct.

MAY 30-JUNE 6 British Heart Foundation (0500 200 575). Iceland Bike Ride. Registration £250, sponsorship £2,150.

MAY 31-JUNE 8 Scope (0500 575222). The Great Wall of China 60-mile hike. Registration £195. sponsorship £2.000.

Guide Dogs for the Blind (01539) 735080). Crossing the Atlas Mountains. Deposit £220, sponsorship £2,000.

JULY 3-12 Friends of Russian Children (0171-404 7766). Helsinki to St Petersburg Bike Ride. £200 registration, £2,000 sponsorship -- or £3,500 if you sign up for the following ride.

Friends of Russian Children (0171-404 7766). St Petersburg to Moscow Bike

Ride, about 450 miles. £200 registration, £2,000 sponsorship.

JULY 31-AUGUST 9 Scope (0500 575222). The Russian Bike Away, from St Petersburg to Moscow. Registration £195. spousorship £2,000.

SEPT 5-13

OCT 17-25

British Heart Foundation (0500) 200575). Greece bike ride from Mount Olympus to Delphi, about 225 miles. Registration £250, sponsorship £2,150. OCTOBER

Leonard Cheshire (0141-332 1811). African Tracks, 250-mile bike ride across Uganda to raise money for disabled people. Registration £200, sponsorship £2,300.

apa (0171-251 5860), which works to reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol. The Three Seas Cycle Challenge visits the Mediterranean, Dead Sea and Sea of Galilee. Registration £250, sponsorship £2,500. OCT 24-NOV I

World ORT Union (0171-446 8500), a Jewish educational charity. Navigating the Bible bike ride, about 200 miles from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea, or a hike on the same Exodus route. Registration £300, sponsorship £2,200.

Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society (contact Dorothy MacKenzie, 0131-313 3828). The 7th Nazareth Hospital Bike Ride, about 220 miles through Galilee. Registration £150, sponsorship £2,000.

NOV 10-17 Guide Dogs for the Blind (01539 735080). Cycle across Cuba. Registration £230, sponsorship £2,000.

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هِ كَذَا مِن رِلامِل

The doomed ship that refuses to die

Tom

Chesshyre

visits a new

exhibition that

shows the illfated Titanic still captures

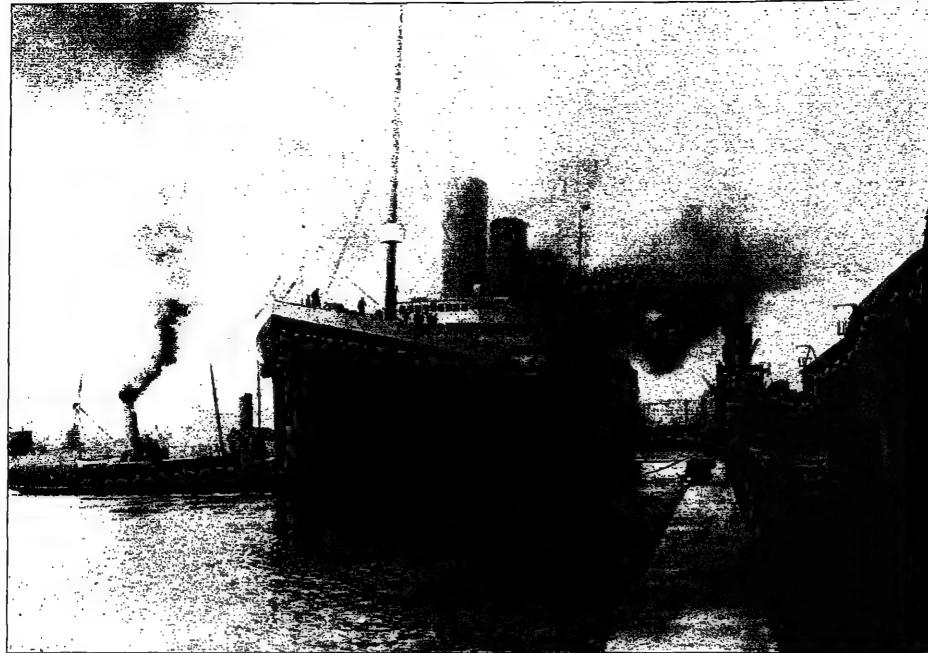
imaginations

The largest collection of artefacts recovered from the Titanic went on show in St Petersburg, Florida, last week. More than 300 objects from the ill-fated ocean liner, which sank after hitting an iceberg on April 15, 1912, include chandeliers, diamond necklaces, a steward's jacket, bronze cherub and two bottles of champagne, remarkably still with their corks intact

The exhibition, which runs until May 15 before moving to either Boston, Massachusetts, or San Diego, California, also has several displays detailing the circumstances in the runup to the sinking, in which almost 1,500 people died, as well as models of the Titanic and newspaper reports from The Times.

Millvina Dean, a survivor who was nine weeks old at the time and now lives in Southampton, was at the opening of the Florida exhibition. "Although I can't remember a thing about the sinking I spent my whole live wondering about it, especially what happened to my father who died). The exhibition explains it all very clearly," she says.

Advanced ticket sales suggest that the exhibition will be a hit: already more than 92,000 have been sold, and interest in the Titanic has been heightened recently by the publicity for the new Hollywood film Titanic, starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio, which had its British premiere last week



April 1912: the tug Vulcan pulls the huge, new liner Titanic away from the White Star company's Berth 44 at Southampton before the fateful crossing of the Atlantic

and is due to go on general release early next year.

George Tulloch, the presi-dent of RMS Titanic, the American company that holds the salvage rights to the Titanic and put the exhibition together, is very pleased with

the response. "It looks as

though we can expect 100,000 visitors a month - we seem to be experiencing some kind of Titanic-mania," he says.

Tours of the exhibition last about an hour and a haif. One section has a re-creation of a deck overlooking a star-filled sky. "Isn't it wonderful," said Jamie Peterson, aged 47, of Slough, Berkshire. "You feel like you could almost be there. I've discovered a lot about the

Titanic that I didn't know." There has been some concern about the taste of some of the souvenirs in the gift shop. A plastic drinking cup with a

lifebelt "floating" at the bot-tom was withdrawn before the opening, because organisers realised it might te considered offensive.

Another souvenir, which is Titanic, with inflatable ice-

year off to travel before

basis of a Times article which

has won Tom Griffiths the accolade of Young Travel Writer of the Year. Mr Grif-

fiths, now 23, is the inaugural

winner of the competition,

sponsored by Travel South

USA and the industry news-

He used his gap year to

200d effect. He saw the world,

wrote the book and has now

collected a trophy. At 18, he considered himself too young

to start university. He also

wanted a break from studying.

ing at a McDonald's in Ips-

wich, he was off: Los Angeles

was followed by Hawaii. Fiji,

Australia, Indonesia, Singa-

After seven months' work-

paper Travel Trade Gazette.

university formed the

berg, at \$19.99 (£11.75) for playing with in the bath. "It's bit sick," said Beatrice Penrith, 34, from Glasgow. But Nannette Briggs, who

Student's article in The Times wins new travel award

was on holiday from Atlanta. It was obviously a terrible tragedy but it has been han-dled with sensitivity."

"Titanic: The Exhibition" is at the Florida International Museum (00) 813 822 3693). Tickets cost \$13.95, seniors 65lus \$12.95, full-time students

> choice of meals. Thomson says it will keep some emergency exit seats and those at the front of the plane for tall or disabled people. But

> The Tall Persons Club for Great Britain and Irelani says the policy is unfair, and a chain High & Mighty, said: are important customers and

The Air Transport Users Council agrees. "It is unfortu-nate that seats that should go to people with long legs are going to those with money."

in case of an emergency.

Lilis is

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☐ MURDER most horrid: Woolcombe Bay Hotel (0127) 870388). Woolcombe, Devon. invites you to deduce whodunnit next Friday. The murder mystery weekend includes two nights' half-board accommodation and full use of the

health suite and sports facilities for £145 per person. QUEST Worldwide (0181-547 3322) is offering reduced air fares to the Middle East until December 10. Returns from Heathrow to Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Muscat and Doha cost

from £324, excluding taxes. ☐ FRENCH Golf Holidays (01277 374374) is offering seven nights B&B accommodation at the Frégate Hotel, near Bandol, which has its own course overlooking the sea. The price of £475 includes buggy hire, one day on the Barbaroux course, and return

crossings on Le Shuttle, based

on four people sharing a car.

NEXT Saturday is your last chance for a reduced fare to Perth, Western Australia, British Airways and Oantas (0345 747767) have combined to offer return flights for E749 per person, excluding tax. Departing daily from Heathrow via Bangkok or Singapore until Saturday, and resuming between January 21 and March

☐ FINE wine, good food and a spot of walking are offered on Winetrails' (01306 712111) tailor-made itineraries. For example: four nights B&B

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accommodation in the Douro vailey, Portugal, for £455 per person, includes a river boat trip, port tasting and estate visits, car hire, return flights and airport transfers. Departs from Heathrow or Gatwick any day next week.

BEGINNING next Friday the Landmark London Hotel (0171-631 8000) is offering a £74.50 per person rate on double rooms for Fridays to Sundays until December 14, and then every day from December 19 to 24. The price includes valet parking, use of the health club and, when

Mark 0990 292929

Aburta 0171-830 0011

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available, room upgrade. JOANNA HUNTER

Egypt visitors defy warnings

HUNDREDS of Britons are ignoring Foreign Office warnings to avoid Luxor after the massacre of 58 tourists on the Nile last Monday.

this month. However, British Airways Holidays has taken Egypt off sale until the end of

TC Holidays also offered immediate repatriation to 140 customers in Egypt at the time of the massacre but only six took up the offer. The remaining 134 are continuing their holidays, with a party of 27 due in Luxor on Tuesday. The Foreign Office this

week "strongly advised" tour-ists to avoid the Luxor area until further notice. **But Simon Laxton, general** manager of Thomas Cook Holidays, said: "We have

made everybody aware of the FO advice but they still want to go to Luxor - so we are letting them." Kuoni and Abercrombie & tomers to travel but insist they

sign a disclaimer. "There are a lot of people who still want to travel," a Knoni spokeswoman said. Several other firms have also temporarily abandoned tours. Saga Holidays has scrapped two departures and refunded or offered alterna-

booked to travel.

pore, Malaysia and Thailand. Mr Griffiths is only one of 200,000 British youngsters who take a gap year between school and university, but few will have used their time so well. His observations fuelled the idea for the award-wintive holidays to 60 customers ning article in The Times last June and a book, Before You

How to fill that gap year

Go, which is a rich vein of information for wannabe

Much advice was practical, from carrying multivitamins, to duplicating passport details and packing a medical kit, including sterilised needles.
Other tips were thoughtful:

women, married or not. should carry a wedding ring to avoid unwanted attention; everyone should pack a sarong - useful as a towel, drying-up cloth, sheet and wrap. On his return to Britain, Mr.

Griffiths studied economics at. Manchester University. But the travel bug continued to bite. Russia and Canada have been ticked off the list, and he has eyes on South America while pursuing a career in

Times: "I have the self-belief and the self-confidence that I can do anything and succeed at whatever I do. it may sound arrogant, but that is what travel has done for me." He has been invited to give

travel talks and plans a second book, but says that paying bills has been tough, and the award is a timely filip.

was surprised when I heard that I had won the title," he said. "It is difficult slogging away with little money and having something like this has given me a huge boost."

Glenn Couvilion, managing director of Travel South USA. "The overwhelming choice of our panel of judges, Tom writes with an enthusiasm and energy that is capti-vating. He embodies the very attributes for which the award was designed."

The trophy — and the prize of a holiday in the southern US — was presented to Mr Griffiths at the World Travel Market in London this week.

Seating on tall people

BOOKING seats next to the emergency exits could add nearly £500 to the holiday bill of a family flying to Florida, Tom Chesshyre and Steve Keenan write.

Thomson will charge cus-tomers £60 each way for four seats on Britannia Airways, its sister airline, on long-haul flights to destinations including Florida and the Caribbean. The move is being studied by rivals, including Airtours and First Choice.

If booked both ways by a family of four, the cost would be £480 — adding an average 25 per cent to the typical Florida holiday bill.

On short-haul flights to the Mediterranean, the seats which have 36in of space. compared to 28-30in normally will cost £30 each way. Previously, they would have been offered to customers more than 6ft 4in tall. Thomson describes the move as "an additional service".

Charging for space is just one of several additional costs Thomson has introduced for services that, it could be argued, should be free. They include an executive check-in, costing £35, which speeds you through the check-in process to a special departure lounge; and pre-bookable seats, at £5 per person per flight, which guarantees that families sit

CHARGING extra for emergency exit seats was tried three years ago by Somak Holidays on charters to Kenya. The company charged up to E55 a seat for a year before introducing a first-class cabin. Ash Sofat, the managing director, said: "They were always full."

Tour operators have since tried various ways of charging for extras which help alleviate the misery of a packed over-night charter flight. Airtours introduced pre-bookable seats a year ago, charging £10. It makes the same charge for a

tall people are upset that seats for which they were given preference are now being sold.

"Emergency exit seats are important for tall people, who should be looked after."

Under Civil Aviation Authority rules, exit seats must be filled by able-bodied people

Hong Kong ding-dong

AIR FARES to Hong Kong have gone Chinese crackers with one-way prices for the New Year from E88.

BA Holidays began the firesale, with three-night hotel/flights packages for £299: more than 2,000 holidays sold within days. Qantas Holidays then dropped the price to £275. Cathay Pacific offered a £549 fare for two.

The cheapest offer is from Campus Travel - one-way flights for £88 (returns, £176) to students or those under 26. The offers run from January 1 until February 15, and must be booked by November 27.
This is traditionally a quiet

sales period, and the posthandover hangover has also seen sales to Hong Kong fall.

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Battle of the peanut planes

THREE small airlines are this weekend consolidating plans to counter a move by British Airways to peach their potential passengers by introducing cheap, no frills flights next

The move by BA is a direct response to the success of easyJet. Debonair and Ryanair, who will be closely watching their giant rival for signs of anti-competitive behaviour.

With profit margins so thin, the only way all will survive is by increasing the existing air pravel market while paring administration costs.

The new BA subsidary airline will copy easyJet's operation in selling direct to the public and cutting out travel agents, easylet has set the standard for no-frills flying. Staff are not paid wages: instead, they are paid 80p for There'll be tears on the Tarmac if BA starts price war, says Steve Keenan

every seat booked. The system works both ways for the airline customers seeking long-sold E29 seats are enthusiastically encouraged to buy higher-priced fares. The number of travellers at

Luton, where both easyJet and Debonair are based, has doubled in the past year. Stelios Haji-Ioannou, the chairman of easyJet, said: "If you reduce prices, people will fly more." Passenger numbers on the

Birmingham-Dublin route have quadrupled to 600.000 since Ryanair began the service in 1994. The biggest savings are on service, hence the "no-frills"

tag. None offer free hot drinks

snacks are only of the multin or peanut variety.

The airlines use secondary airports, such as Luton, Prestwick and Liverpool, which offer cheaper rates. Admin is kept to a minimum: easyJet has no paper files and accepts only credit/debit card payments - meaning cash in the bank within 24 hours.

BA PROMISES it will be "squeaky clean" in competing with the low-cost carriers. But there is a fine line between large airlines responding to the market and anti-competitive behaviour, especially when new carriers are still looking to make any profit.

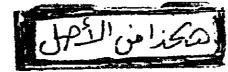
Of 30 sirlines that started in

Europe since 1993, all but 20 have failed. There is also a danger that in expanding their networks so fast, the no-frills airlines will come into conflict with each other. On December 12. Debonair is due to start services between Luton and Nice, in direct competition with easylet. Ryanair, looking to expand at Luton, wants to add to its continental network, currently just two routes to

The potential for conflict is there, and Debonair is already looking to sign co-operation deals with independent carriers abroad as a form of insurance. Its first, a partnership with Milan-based Azzurra Air, sook off last month. There may be tears on the

Tarmac After all budget airlines are hardly in a position to start a price war, particularly with a BA offshoot.





AROUND THE WORLD A WEEKEND GUIDE

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WITH France back in favour among British holidaymak-ers, Brittany Ferries (0990 360360), which took over the Gites de France UK marketing last year, has frozen its prices for 1998 and added gites in several regions. Some of these are in the wine-growing areas of Burgundy, the Loire and Bordeaux, where owners will advise holidaymakers on the best vineyards to visit, what to

taste and what to buy.

A typical gite on a farm near Bergerac in Aquitaine costs from \$55.30 for each of four holidaymakers for a week, and from £98.10 for two weeks. These prices include the ferry crossings.
If you are travelling to one

of the more distant gites and staying there for a week or more, Brittany Ferries will offer one night's free family accommodation in a hotel en route on either the outward or return journey (but not if you use the short sea crossings).

Early bargains

IF YOU can get away in early December or during the sec-ond and third weeks of January, you will be able to take advantage of some of the best sunshine and sightseeing bargains of the year.

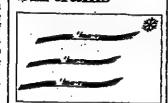
You can gasp at the Taj Mahal, flying directly to Agra | resorts. Coaches leave Lon-

for a week (room only). This will cost £439 in early December or £429 from January 5-11. Or unlock the mysteries of the Forbidden City on a six-night stay in Beijing. This will cost £399 in early December.

A Mexican boliday with

A Mexican holiday with three nights exploring Mayan ruins and three nights in high-rise Cancun costs £549 (room only) in mid-December and early January, when temperatures are far more pleasant than in steamy sum-mer. These tours are all available through Kuoni Limited Editions (01306 740500).

Ski trains



EUROSTAR "Ski Saver" trains (0345 303030) leave London's Waterloo Station on Saturdays at 08.57 and Ashford at 10.05, and arrive at Moutiers at 17.41 and Bourg-St-Maurice at 18.27 on the same day. The service begins on December 13 and runs until April 25. Return fares cost from £149-£199 and there is no charge for skis.

For those who can face the journey of 15 hours or more, Eurolines coach services (0990 143219) are the cheapest way to travel to the Alpine.

don's Victoria Coach Station on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 18.30, arriving at Grenoble the next morning at 10.15, Chambéry at 11.15 and Annecy at 12.30. The adult return fare is £97, and a further 52 will take you as far as Chamonix. There is a £4 fee for carrying skis on board and this service runs until March 31,

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS - -

SINCE The Gambia's Banjul airport reopened last month after a million-dollar renovation. regular travellers, says The Gambia Experience (01703 730888), are already nostalgic for the old laid-back terminal, where porters took your luggage by hand and you could pass inevitable delays outside the airport by sunbathing and eating ice-cream. The firm offers twice-weekly

departures costing from £199 return, flight only, and from £288-£384 for a week's B&B stay in a two-star beach hotel, making the tiny 30-by-200 mile country the cheapest guaranteed sizzling winter sunshine destination in the holiday brochures. Not everything has changed, however — yours is still tikely to be the only aircraft on the runway and yes, it will probably also be late.

Flexible cities

A NEW programme of city and country breaks, Brief Encounters, has been

launched by Simply Travel (0181-995 9323), the group that specialises in lesser-known Maditerranean resorts.

Offering only historical, luxury or smaller family-run hotels, and with flexible travel arrangements, Brief Encounters' 18 cities include Verona, Seville and Istanbul, as well as Paris, Salzburg and Am-sterdam. A three-night B&B break to Istanbul staying in the small Celal Sultan Hotel, a converted traditional Ottoman house, costs between E360 and £440.

"Wandering" breaks to Andalucia, Majorca and Ireland are a variation on the city theme. In Majorca, a four-night break with two nights' B&B in its capital Palma, staying at the two-star Hotel Born, a converted 16th-century palace, and another two nights in the tiny four-star Hotel Cala Sant Vicenç near Pollensa costs £404. This price also includes the flights and car hire for three days. These prices are valid through to April 3.

A TWICE-WEEKLY
service to the
Armenian capital of Yerevan by British Mediterranean Airways (01784 26630 0) is due to start on December 1. The five-hour flight, via Tbilisi in Georgia, will cost from £800 return. Yerevan's attractions include the ascient manuscripts in the Maternaharan museum, the National Gallery, the weekend markets, the views of Mount Ararat in neighbouring Turkey, and

what many (including, reputedly, Winston Churchill) believe to be the world's best brandy. Sunvil Travel (0181-568 4499), the only UK tour operator to Armenia, offers a week-long B&B stay in Yerevan for £696-£736 including flights, with pre-bookable exemptions into the countryside.

monsoon season).

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WITH its large, empty stret-ches of coastline, Orissa has been tipped as India's next Goa or Kerala -- but the littleknown eastern state has baneswar with about 500 much more to offer than temples, plus visits to remote

sandy beaches. Adventure specialist Explore Worldwide (01252 344161) is introducing Wildlife and Tribes of Orissa tribal hill villages. These tours cost between £1,175 and £1,330 for flights, internal travel and accommodation, mainly in B&Bs. Tours in March 1998 and between November 1998 and January 1999 (to avoid the UP TO 13,000 cheaper

Starting in Calcutta, the 17day tour includes Similipal National Park, a sanctuary for the rare Bengal tiger, and Ekakula Beach, where thou-sands of giant Pacific Ridley offer free places or discounts only when sea turtles lay their eggs. Also on the itinerary: the vast Sun Temple of Konarak, the Jagannath Temple at Puri, one of India's holiest sites, and Bhudestinations such as

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holidays for singleparent families are on offer from Thomson Holidays (0990 502552) next summer. Traditionally, holiday firms children are accompanied by two adults: Thomson has selected 16 apartments in 14 resorts in popular family Majorca, the Algarve and

Corfu, where reductions will

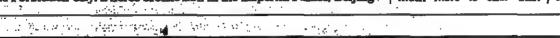
still apply for up to two children even if there is only one adult. Although the prices still include the "under

occupancy" supplement (travel-speak for extra charges that usually cancel out any children's reductions). Thomson daims that savings are greater than on any other comparable holiday. A week in May in Majorca, for example, would cost £229 for a parent with two children. instead of the normal brochure price of £495. In August the single-parent offer price would be £693

The non-profit-making organisation One Parent Family Holidays (01465 821288 on Mondays, 017/6 889500 Tuesdays-Šaturdays), which was formed in 1975, claims to offer 50 per cent discounts for children to most destinations within Europe, and 40 per cent in the United States. The offers for next year include group camping trips in the Loire valley and

holidays in the Balearic Islands, Holland, Florida and Australia. A parent, and child under 10, pay E249 for the French camping trip in June, rising to £299 in peak





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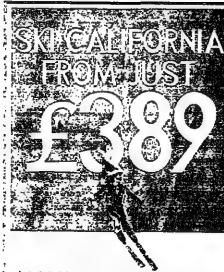
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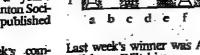


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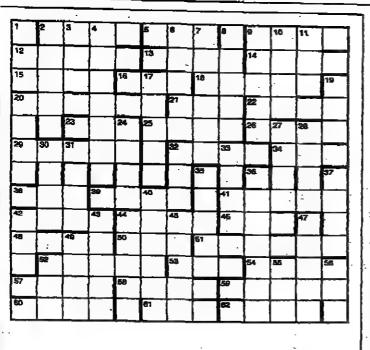
Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer will be published next Saturday. Solution to last week's com- Last week's winner was A. Joel, pention: I Rfl.



The first correct answer drawn on 2 abcdefgh Salisbury, Wiltshire.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3437: The Message by MynoT



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3437 in association with Waterstone's

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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3437, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL36HE, by Thursday, December 4.

KETTENWY 2 3

a y t

1 Rxe8+! Kxe8 2 Bg6+ Kf8 3 Qd8+

D. Povey of Littlehampton and

David Barrett of Surrey point out

that Black had an alternative de-

fensive try with 1 Rxe8+ Kxe8 2

Bg6+ and now 2 ... Ri7. However.

they also point out the refutation: 3

Qb8+ Ke7 4 Qxb7+ and White will

exchange everything off on 17 and

The final extract was published as

White to play. This position is from the game Bauer-Santo

In this complicated position

White spotted a forceful combination which won the game.

1 Rxe5! dxe5 2 Qxe5+ Kg8 3 Rf4! and

Black has no way to counter 4 Rg4+, except by 3 ... Rxi4 when 4 Bd5+ which wins outright.

Professor Eilon of London sug-

gests 1 Rxf7 would be a swifter way

for White to win. However, after I

Rxf7, Black responds 1 ... Oxh5+,

capturing the white queen and ut-

terly turning the tables. Backwards

moves are often difficult to spot.

the Winning Move on October 7.

then queen the b-pawn.

Roman, France 1997.

Solution:



The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10

I CONTINUE with some of the

more ingenious suggestions sub-mitted by Times readers. Today we

ification and one horrendous trap....
The first position was originally

published as a Winning Move on

White to play. This position is

from the game Skotorenko-gadimirov, USSR 1961. White has an active position but

Black appears to have covered the important weak spots, as his rook

controls his and his hishop controls.

f7. However, White found a neat

geometric combination which won

| Rxf7+! Bxf7 2 Ne6+ Ke8 (2 ... Kg8

3 Qg7 mate) 3 Nc7+ and the black

Dr Harrison of East Sussex

indicates an alternative method for

White: 1 Rb2! Now if Black cap-

tures the knight with 1 ... Qxc5 2

Rb8+ forces 2 . . . Bd8 3 Rxd8+ Ke7 4

Qf6 checkmate. The best that Black can do is I ... Qxb2 2 Nd7+ Ke8 3 Qxb2 Kxd7 4 Qb7+ but White will win easily. Well spotted.

The next situation is from the

Winning Move of October 3. Here,

Black is obviously trussed up like a

turkey but the question is what is

the most efficient way to finish

things off? For example: I Qxfo+

gxf6 2 Bg6 would force Black to

jettison material in the long term, but there may be something

stronger.
White to play. The position is

from the game Prokopchuk-Sakalauskas, Poland 1997. Can you

spot White's clever winning combi-

nation, which was even more

decisive than the line I proposed?

By Raymond Keene

Chess Correspondent

Black to play. This position is from the game O'Kelly

Speciman, Cambridge v Middle-sex 1971. Despite his large ma-terial deficit of rook and bishop,

Black has a fierce attack along the

now bring this attack to a

successful conclusion?

open g- and h-files. How can he 4

- WINNING WILLYES

queen is lost.

quickly. What did he play?

i notice one distant

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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

Solution

To get this unsigned message across, it has been concealed in the letters fin order but not necessarily consecutive) omitted from answers before entry in the grid. Solvers are asked to enter the (missing) finalé to the message beneath the grid. All answers and entries are words found in Chambers 1993 except for one well-known place name. The numbers in brackets indicate the length of the grid entries.

ACROSS

2 Feather's soft and light, mostly (4)

5 Figs for suct pie (3) 9 Blockhead for the chop (4)

12 Cautions swoop around English bogs (5) 13 Spring dead one on church (4)

14 One who approves our loud rave is crazy (4) 15 Activists cared about society (4) 16 Taste of flan I devour (except some filling) (3)

18 Next best principle's almost symbol of death (5) 20 60% going from C to a . . . (6) 21 ... Sweet note in pain (3)

22 Room for half a dozen? (4) 23 Colour, unmistakeable but not discontinued (3)

25 Mix early English philtre for best velvet? (4) 26 Chair brought back for promenades (4) 29 Kick VIP? (5) 32 Northern feast may be abominable (4)

34 During the day, one in red passed through (3) 38 Plant house with a following (3) 39 Ninepence in bag for this lot of beer? (4) 41 Blemish on the Queen needs a repairer (5)

42 Reform a must for malodorous mammals (4) 44 Started to ask one (4) 46 Spike's in room A509, without cold water (3)

48 Draw back with fright from spectre (4) 50 Jolly party I have (3) 51 Graduate in hat produces pastry mould (6) 52 Unrecorded in Henry and Alfred's times (5)

53 Make fun of molluse with new tail (3) 54 Dirges take in the difficulties (4) 57 Quince consumes best lubricant (4)

58 Crafty people find space in tubes (4) 59 Bluebottle records "hit and run" (5) 60 Golfer on Scottish shores makes cuts (4) 61 Paper boat by the sound of it (3) 62 With much deliberation we start to insulate broken

DOWN

1 Trouble arising in room in harem (3) 2 Fairies almost die (5)

3 Shelter a general (3)

light at the end of day (4)

4 Free one's local credit (7) 6 Ambassador heard the last words . . . [5] 7 ... Lily heard a monster (6)

8 The sword gets home in skin (5) 9 Take chances about instruments (5)

10 You've a bit part, Iris! (4) 11 Notes the heads of my essential synopsis (3) 17 Snake-like covering (5)

19 Said to have a right to the ballot-box (3) 20 Dandies losing money in turkeys (4) 24 Return of a delay in the web (4)

27 Teacher keeps in everyone (separately) (4) 28 A zed-shaped tool? (4)

30 Waterweed not a force in Zeno's city (4) 31 Tidy Newcastle has a sort of square (4)

32 Deer found in US and Melksham (3) 33 Most operations include part of organ (4)

35 African puts embargo on Trade Union (5) 36 Vases manitos are breaking (7) 37 River leads to Ukrainian & Russian agricultural land? No & yes! (4)

40 Stopping tax to monarch (6) 42 A wry face, whichever way up (3)

43 Old seat to make acceptable to European (5) 44 They summon beauties to be heard (5)

45 Confused on board? (two words, 5)

47 Plainly without cash to a marked extent (5) 49 One in a hundred thousand is not an expert (4) 52 Stop in middle of lots of fish (3)

55 Hooter manufactured in Cowley? (3)

56 Yes, mutation produces local strain (3)

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ing Donington Park, Snetterton and Brands Hatch. There are

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such as a "head cam" vista from

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judders with the car's G-forces for

As good as the game is, nothing

beats the real thing. So two readers, and a guest each, will scoop the

chance to feel such G-forces for

real. The silver package promises a day to remember with the Nigel

Mansell Racing School at Brands

added realism.

Solution and notes for 3434: The Albingate Murder by Cheiron

13 unlucky ships or aeroplanes have blundered into THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE (anagram of title) and become lost. (SAIC, JET, TERN, DOW, WING, BRIG, PACKET, MAN, SHIP, HOPPER, ARK, KETCH, PROA)

Solvers were also required to shade the defining land masses (as per Chambers) FLORIDA, THE BAHAMAS and CUBA

The winner is John Robert-Jones of, Liverpool, Merseyside. The runners up are D. Greenwood, of Ealing, London; Harold Margolis, of Hackney, London; Mr and Mrs M. Wreathall, of Chelmsford. Essex; P.L. MacDougal, of Fulham, London: Hazel Workman, of Birmingham, West Midlands.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

BRIDGE computer programs come in three categories: those that bid and play randomly-dealt hands, those that use prepared hands for teaching purposes, and those that enable you to play bridge against other players on the Internet. All require an IBMcompatible personal computer, the more powerful the better. The minimum requirements are usually 4Mb RAM and Windows 31. Before buying, check with the vendor that you have the right kit.

The three leading programs in the playing category are listed below. In each case the bidding is much better than the card play. where there are frequent errors. They are easy to use, play Acol as well as American systems, offer popular conventions and have a range of features.

Q-plus Bridge: This German program, second in the 1997 American Computer Bridge Tournament, has the most extensive range of systems, including Acol, Precision, and most of the American ones. The help during the bidding is particularly good. Here is an accurate auction from Q-plus:

eK6 +A2 VAJ42 E *KQ10863 +109 +43 8 #AKQ95 **◆ 1083** West 1C 4C° 5H *Cus bld East 1H 4S* Pass

Q-plus assures us that Four Clubs is a cue-bid in the above auction, something I would have thought open to question. Still, it did well to detect the diamond weakness. £49.50, Mr Bridge 01483 489961.

Bridge Baron 8 (and Bridge

Baron): From the US, the winner of the Computer Bridge Tournament. It is suited to players of all skill levels. It will provide hints on bidding or play — like many human players it is often wrong but never in doubt. A smaller version. Bridge Baron, is good value. Bridge Baron 8: £49.95, Bridge Plus 0118-935 1052 (DOS and Mac

versions also available.) Bridge Baron: £20, computer stores (needs a CD-Rom drive).
Micro Bridge 8: A lively product from Japan. Among its many features is one which allows you to play match-pointed pairs using the results of tournaments already

played in Japan. The display of the cards on the screen is not as good as the other two programs. The hand below illustrates a couple of inter-esting technical points missed.

TAJ W E 4985 • K2 I +ADJ4 8 #Q843 **◆**A1052

Contract 3NT by West With the computer playing all four hands, the lead went to the king and West ducked. Although un-likely to cost, this is a mistake because South may switch to a

spade. West would have to play the ace on this as otherwise the defence could switch back to hearts threatening to set up five winners. Now, when West plays clubs (ace and low to the queen is best), he will go down if one of the defenders started with K Q 10 x of spades. When I redealt the defenders' spades to produce the critical layout, the program did not find the spade switch: £54, Bridge Plus (needs a CD-Rom drive).

Next week: the teaching and Internet

WORD ANSWERS

Answers from page 36 ANLAGE

F. 1920 13:

(b) The rudimentary basis of an organ or organism. FRIKKADEL

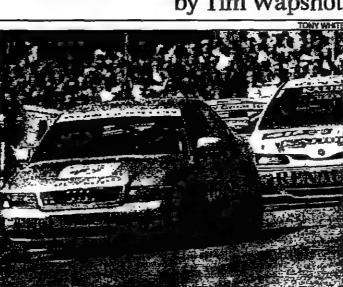
(a) A South African ball of meat, fried or baked; a rissole.

(a) Stylish, smart. Cf. the Scottish doss neat, spruce, and dossie a small, neat, well-dressed person. GAZOB

(c) Oz slang for a fool or blunderer.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



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BMW 318 and a racing car.

The visit will last around two and a half hours; at the end you will be presented with a commemorative certificate proving you have tested your mettle in metal at the worldfamous track. Cyberspace Thirty-

Hatch. The trip starts with a Eight is open to anyone with a classroom briefing, then moves to the racetrack where you drive a current driving licence. To enter you must come up with an outline or short script for an imaginary television advertising campaign for the unimaginable: a Skoda sports car. Your treatment should cover

no more than one side of A4 paper. Send your entries, with your name, age and telephone number. to Cyberspace Thirty-Eight, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN. You may also e-mail entries, marked Cyberspace Thirty-Eight.

to cyber@dircon.co.uk. by Decem-Normal Times competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into additional correspondence. The two winners, plus six runners-

up, will also win PC copies of Codemaster's TOCA Touring Car Championship. BIRMINGHAM Computer Manuais has just released its latest imports of Prima game cheat

books. The PlayStation Pocket Power Guide (vol 2), offers insider information on over 60 games, from Assault Rigs to War Gods. Tips for Need for Speed II, for example, allow you to get some unusual mileage out of the title which you may not have known about Type "OUTHME" and your powerful sports car turns into an outside loo on wheels, while "TREXME" turns your racer into a dinosaur with an unparalleled view of the course thanks to its long

does the same thing for 30 games. In Manx TT, swap bikes for isle of Man sheep as follows: at the "select transmission" screen of Saturn mode, press Up, Up, Down, Down. Left, Right, Z, Y. Both guides cost £6.99.

£11.99, claims to have cheat codes for over 100 games but tends to be more of a briefing manual. So does Nintendo 64 Unauthorised Game Secrets, £9.99, but this is wocfully inadequate. Try using it to plot some games and you are frustrated by vagaries. You can contact Computer Manuals on 0121-706 6000 or via their website (http://www. compman.co.uk).

TWO BRAINS ANSWERS

From page 36

Question 1: 216. The previous numbers are multiplied together and the result divided

Ouestion 2: a) Surgeon b) Astronomer

NEW SOFTWARE

I HAVE a problem with Microsoft's Age of Empires. This is a glossy god game in which you dispatch hunters to kill elephants and lions for food at the start of the game. It seems so barbaric that I tried to build my civilisation by feeding them a diet of fish alone, which could be why the weaklings were later wiped out.

Age of Empires is Microsoft's

slant on Sid Meier's classic, Civilisation. Charges of blatant unoriginality can be forgiven, however, since this title was developed by Ensemble Studios under the guidance of Bruce Shelley, who codesigned Sid Meier's hits Civilisation and Railroad Tycoon.

Starting as one of 12 fledgling tribes (Babylomans, Egyptians, Greeks, Persians and so on), you pick your own path through 10,000 years of evolution to world domination. You must balance manpower and resources with technology, warmongering and diplomacy.

The game looks sensational and runs like clockwork. It easily becomes all-consuming yet it can be difficult to shake off feelings of already having been there and done that Still, it is extremely polished as you expect from one of the titles warranting most attention when Microsoft first aired it at Atlanta's trade show this summer. Verdict: 9 out of 10. Classy and cagrossing god gaming. £39.99.

HASBRO Interactive's Monopoly Star Wars is a marriage made in the heavens but executed in a muddled hell. Despite input by the original voice for C-3PO in the film trilogy. Anthony Daniels, the title has little to excite Monopoly fans and even less for all but die hard Star Wars groupies.



warship you opt for eight charac-ters from the film - Darth Vader, Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia among them. The only familiar squares from the board are Go. prison, free parking and go to prison. Everything else takes an unfathomable Star Wars slant. Chance and Community Chest become Imperial and Rebel cards. Railway stations become space vessels. Out go the Old Kent Road and Whitechapel for Swamp Dagobah and Yoda's Hut and so on with the colour-coded sets around the board.

identify individually. In the original you know the significance of being ordered to Advance to Mayfair but Advance to Imperial Palace Coruscant carries only confusion. C-3PO's constant narration of events, which is testy if you are playing as R2-D2 and timid if you are Darth Vader, barely adds to the experience. This is not a patch on Hasbro's CD-Rom of original Monopoly, released last year.

• Verdick 6 out of 10. Monopoly

Engrossing: Age of Empires instead of the dog, boot and

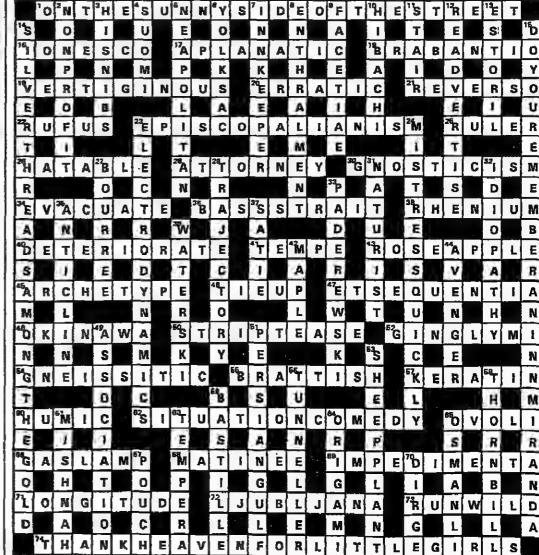
The main screen looks ugly and the board squares are difficult to

Star Wars - Do Not Pass Go.

SOLUTION JUMBO CROSSWORD 135

neck. The sister title is Seea Saturn

Pocket Power Guide (vol 2), which



The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Don Cox, of Wirral. Cheshire

هكذا من رلامل

MODERN MANNERS by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, I Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

My brother has just got divorced from his wife who we were very fond of and would still like to see. What is the correct etiquette in this situation? — Celia Glynn, Sherborne, Dorset.

First tell your brother (prefer-A First tell your broaden are you ably in writing) that you would like to continue seeing his former wife. This is a question of courtesy rather than consent, as a divorced spouse has no say in the matter. Next write to her, saying that despite the divorce you wish to remain friends. I suspect she will be delighted with this gesture.

What is the correct form of address to a married couple where the wife, but not the husband, is an ordained minister? We have been variously addressed as "Revd & Mr G", "Mr & Revd Mrs G", "Mr & Revd Mrs G", 'Revd Mrs E & Mr G" and a variety of other permutations. -George Hubbard, Willingham. Cambridge.

Quite simply: Mr George and The Revd Elizabeth Hubbard.

Early one morning this summer, I woke to the sound of rainfall. I suddenly remembered that the down pipe from the roof guttering was dis-connected from the rainwater butt, and I rusbed outside. I had to stand on tiptoe with arms outstretched to

connect the down pipe, and was thus spreadcagled facing the side of the house when I heard milk bottles clinking by the door: the milkown on his delivery round in the half-light of dawn. On hot anights, as this had been, I don't wear any night clothes, and had failed to get dressed in my rush to collect the rainwater. In my nakedness, I failed to greet the milkman with my customary, cheerful "Good morning". Instead, I froze, hoping he wouldn't notice me. I wonder if I have offended him — or if I would have by acting in a more extrovert and up-front manner. — Andrew Brownridge, Askham, Notts.

A Just as the well-trained butler always feigns complete indifference should he catch his master. mistress or others in flagrante delicto, on the loo, or stark naked, the form of somebody in your situation is to behave as if fully clothed. You should have merely turned your head to the milkman (perhaps not the rest of your body to spare him a full-frontal assault so early in the morning) and said a bright "Good morning". I suspect he would have regarded such a reaction as less unusual than the response vou describe.

I was always taught that when eating dessert, one should either use a spoon and

LFRED DUNHILL

LONDON

fork, or a fork alone. I have noticed of late many people using just a spoon. Is this acceptable these days? - Bruce Morgan, Duffield, Derbyshire.

At a recent wedding, just before the church service a visit to a pub was proposed by the groom's father. The only person I knew among the guests was the groom's father himself. Was it selfish of me not to offer the first round of drinks? - E.E. Manning, London, W8.

The wedding day belongs to the bride, groom and their parents. Thus it was the groom's father's prerogative to stand the first round of drinks. After all, I suspect his expenses for the day were considerably less than those of his opposite number.

Having been divorced for 17 years, my former husband died earlier this year. Some friends say I should tick widow. some say divorced and some single on forms. I've always been addressed as Mrs. Esther McKell, Ayr, Scotland. The act of divorce

A dissolves a marriage and therefore any subsequent claims to widowhood are invalid. Thus, both for practical reasons such as pension entitle-

ments and for social correctness, you should always tick "divorced" when filling in forms.

As a qualified hairdresser and beautician, I often give my friends luxurious treatments at home, the price being a good bottle of wine. This mostly works well except for one or two friends who conveniently "forget" the payment and several weeks can go by before they remember. I find this extremely rude. After all, they could not forget to pay if they went to a clinic or salon. How could I tactfully suggest that this is not acceptable and spoils what is usually a fun night? — Miss S. Myers, Worcester.

Next time one of the miscre-A ants comes around, say innocently: "Could I could ask your opinion about a little dilemma? As you know, the price to friends for one of my treatments is a good bottle of wine. Someone has asked me to do some extensive electrolysis, which I estimate will take 12 sessions. Do you think I could ask would mean that she could settle up in advance and not worry about forgetting to pay for individual treatments." Your client should be round to the off-licence before you can say cabernet sauvignon. John Morgan is associate editor of



WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ANLAGE a. An overflow canal b. A rudiment c. To overland a boat

FRIKKADEL a. A rissole

b. A gypsy fiddle c. The African vulture-owl DOSSY

a. Smart b. Soft c. A class of yacht

GAZOB a. A spyhole

 b. A gypsy pancake c. A fool

TWO BRAINS

This column welcomes feedback from readers. Abigail Rosenthal (Herts) and Norman Shepherd (Bristol) have written in suggesting that a truly creative mind might find alternative answers to the questions I have set. If you do have a valid alternative any week, please write to me, Raymond Keene, Two Brains, c/o The Times, Weekend, Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The best contributions will be published in this column.

What is the next number in this **sequence?**

Question 2: The two statements below can be read as two professions. What are they? a) GO NURSE

b) MOON STARTER Answers on page 35 | Answers on page 35

CROSS! DEDS

By Mike Laws

The lure of empty Jumbo grids may not be quite universally acknowledged, but I have had an encouraging comment from Moscow, and am apparently an accessory (before the fact) to neglected housework in Ipswich!

Such thievery of time also afflicts those that create them, since a goodly selection of entries longer than 15 letters is a prereq-uisite, and fitting them in means each diagram has to be con-structed individually, whereas completing one of the 50 fixed grids for the daily crossword is usually the easy part. Clueing long words and phrases often presents difficulties, and a Jum-bo's average solution-length ex-

ceeds that of a 15x15, so the whole puzzle can take more than four. times as long to complete. The occasional obscure vocabulary becomes inevitable, given these strictures. I promise such solutions will be minimised and clued as unequivocally as pos-

sible, although still cryptically. Christmas 1971 saw the first Times Jumbo, by Edmund Akenhead, then crossword editor. His format remains the standard, so after 125 bank holiday appearances it seemed appropriate to dub the first weekly version, on September 6, as No 126. Practical considerations militate against weekly noncryptic versions, but these will continue to appear on Saturdays

preceding bank holidays. Stylespotters will have had the chance to identify the work of seven regular Times contributors so far, sometimes in collaboration, and puzzies by other experienced hands are already in the pipeline. Aspiring Jumboists should make contact first before committing themselves to a full grid.

The blame is entirely mine for last week's jumbo-sixed errors and I apologise unreservedly; allowances will be made. Clue 55 down should have read: Refused to grant it takes two hours to get in the joint (8). However, I would still like you to say Sent comments, or I went mad (5.2) to: Mike Laws, Weekend Jumbo editor, c/o The Times.

PICTURE LINE



READERS are invited to suggest what the Oueen Mother, pictured right, might be saying.

This picture, recently printed in The Times, will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions

on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, EI 9XN.

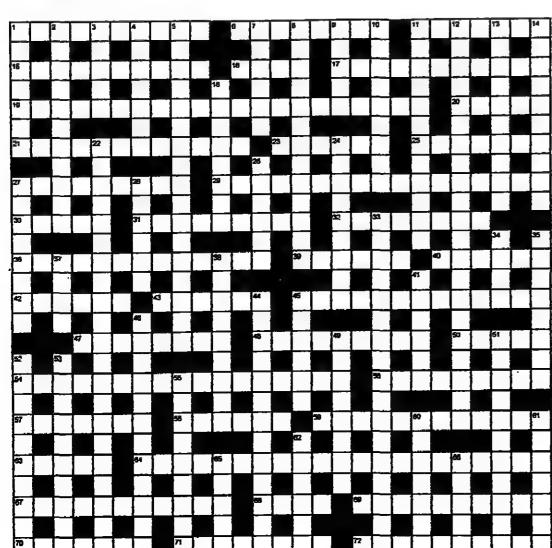
The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, November 27.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by Mrs B. Graebe, of Eye, Suffolk.



JUMBO CROSSWORD 137

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from black resin with a gold-plated clip, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 137. The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN to arrive by Monday, December 1. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on Saturday, December 6.



NAME ... ADDRESS

- Fancy type of clock's mine just a bit of froth (6-4) 6 Is it today? No - it was yesterday
- I in the caves, I cleared a small
- cavity (7) 15 Set permeating in motion (10) 16 Booted out? (4)
- 17 Where the reception is chilly, and ideas are shelved (4.7)
- 19 Hastily concealed cigarette may be quickly disposed of (4,1,4,2,4,6) 20 Having all players involved in show of disapproval, it's backed
- 21 Year's big lead recast, causing a
- quarrel? (12) 23 Slum area has heroin within
- reach (6)
 25 Grandma's showing great interest in cotton material (7)
- 27 Sculptor has a signed agreement rejected say nothing (9)
 29 Loves to fill in parts of this grid.
- (7,3,7) 30 Somewhat wrong-headed, for a decidous tree? (5)
- 31 Complain loudly about schooldays left it'll be grinding
- (5-4) 32 Minor star appearing in a
- footnote (8) 36 Some support offered, being given the push (13)
 39 Off-piste finally, risks may involve
- 40 Lad busy with a piece of music (6)
- 42 Suspecial with two articles to wrap (6)
 43 Winnie, returning to US city, appears fair game (4-2)
- 45 One may control influx, as famous merchant's left in a quandary (8.5)
- 47 Kept daily records, having acted to secure an increase (8)
- 48 Tourist reported profit, following a great deal (9)
- 50 Close with misprint it's at bottom of column! (5)
- 54 Jane's booking perhaps means holding up the match (\$,3,9)
- 56 One in last, possibly under stress (9) 57 It may be involving a criminal (7)
- 58 Pan nearly holds it it's small, like 55 (6)
- 59 Inexperienced at first, feels skill growing (5.7)
 63 Detailed cunning rodent (5)
- 64 Sciected students being aware of previous literary style (6,2,13) 67 Extension needed, as the
- Shadows were performing in the evening (11) 68 Old Swiss hotelier starts to revamp inns, targeting Zurich (4)
- 69 Run off with single partner, doing nothing improper (10) 70 Start people in office cutting bad language, at last (5.2)
 71 One may have heard of the puzzle
- over the page (8) 72 Very vague as a result of afternoon nap, missing a boat coming in? (IO)

DOWN

- Gained promotion, making contact mitially with certain
- branches (7) Well-equipped with warnings of road hazards surrounding a
- capital (11)

 3 Work on a libretto? (5)
- 4 Ignoring some characters involved, once spy defects (7)
- 5 Out of one's control, as
- worshipped pets may be (2,3,3,2,3,4)
- 7 Where sources of special prints are available (2,4)
- 8 Ben's companions are so ancienti
- College head almost has the right page (5)
 It's advisable to have knot
- securing present that's not in doubt (4-5) 11 One's left to establish who the
- caller was (8-4)
 12 This automatic ignition
- occasionally plays up (11,10) 13 Diagram sure to be messed up over editor's first drink! (10)
- 14 Detective with intelligence on the Bill who saw it? (10)
- 18 Crack unit part of a fleet (3-5) 22 Take serious risks, and discu
- two elements in detail (2,7,4,3,5) 24 Islander with singular obsession,
- into Browning (9)
 26 Curious, almost antique? (6)
 27 Do some ironing, perhaps, to
- reduce the quantity (8)
 28 Policeman found graduate in possession of grass (6)
- 33 Act with insolence, accepting the alternative is to give in meekly (4.3,5,5) 34 Queen's attendant dressed up in Indian costume (4)
- 35 Intense pressure a way son got in dire straits? (4,4) 37 Rock music's last fund-raising
- activity (4)
 38 In trouble deep in Texas —
- 41 Arrives in London, perhaps it's a crowded place (6)
- 44 A type of wit heard over dessert? It's hard to get over it (7.6)
- 45 I've abandoned eating some animal produce (6) 46 Outspoken scientist one dismissed
- 30's (4,4) 51 Associate with a creed often seen as corrupt (! 1)
- 52 Will they clear out naval types frequenting the Derby? (5.5) 53 Dispute the number left (10)
- 62 Cut down the weed, perhaps getting terribly chesty (6)
- protection (5)



No 1258

ACROSS

- 1 Neat keyboarded copies
- 11 Rural labourer (8)
- 14 Fights with lances (6) 17 Cambridge mathematician ODOC (8)
- departing as is advisable! (9)
 - (6,5)
- as a monster (12) 49 Representative cross-section of the
- 55 One's daughter may be in the process of delivery (5.4) A supplier of bedding material (7) 61 Dubious religious group split up by American pressure (7)
- 65 Answer, and say one's offered 66 Second aspiration - to be smart

DOWN

l A sense; a small sample (5)

3 A bean, makes meat substi-

5 An (alcoholic) drink (lit.) (8)

Informal expressions (5)

7 Greek/Turkish island (6)

12 A pear, a citros, gives per-

13 Post-Christian 'religion'

16 Sea bird, sounds like fuel (6)

15 Sports ground (7)

18 Be of use (5)

2 Behave insincerely (4-3)

4 Thin decorative strip (6)

tote (4)

(3,3)

- 8 Sordid (5)
- 9 Lazarus's home town (7) 10 And the rest (Lat., abbr.)
- 13 Tree. provides mace (6)
- 19 A fish; a singer (4) 22 Language-learner's book (7) 23 Sound (bell): be consistent (5)
- 24 March girls book (Alcott)

20 Surface lustre (5) 21 Barge; (US) yacht (4) SOLUTION TO NO 1257 ACROSS: 1 Facade 4 Bigwig 9 Chapman 10 Fugue 11 Salve 13 Aquatic 14 Don 15 Bacon 16 Rue 17 Flatter 19 Abbot 21 Caroi 22 Tangent 24 Tweeds 25 Player

7 Giencoe 8 Incarcerate 12 Embattled 14 Deficit 16 Robbery 18 Agree 20 Tutor 23 Nil

THE SECTIMES - BOOKSHOP

DOWN: 1 Focus 2 Chaplin 3 Dam 5 Influenza 6 Wight

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS - SPECIAL OFFER: The Times Jumbo Crosswords Book 3 is available to Times readers for just 14 (RRP 14.49) while supplies too from The Times Bookshop.

Compilation volumes of The Times Two Crosswords (Book 6 — 12.99, The Times Crosswords (Volumes 10, 11, 12, 13 — 13.99 each) and Times Computer Crosswords on disk may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop. ishop, and 0990 134 459 for credit card orders or for further details. If paying PO(s) please make payable to News Books/Crosswords and send or The shop, PO Box 345, Folmouth, TRII 27X. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject

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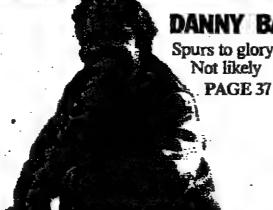
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CAPTAIN'S COURSE

Simon Barnes meets the best horseman in the world PAGE 43



UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

danny baker Spurs to glory? Not likely

DRIVING FORCE Colin McRae puts his foot down in the **RAC Rally**

PAGE 41



WEEKEND MONEY

How much is your house making you this year? PAGE 51



They have ways of making your transport green

PAGE 45

SATURDAY SPORT

NOVEMBER 22 1997

UNITED FRONT NEEDED FOR CATT



Just for kicks: Mike Catt, the England fly half, gets in some practice at Old Trafford yesterday as the countdown continues towards the confrontation with the All Blacks. Photograph: Marc Aspland

HUGBY CORRESPONDENT

OLD TRAFFORD has seen its share of sporting life this past month. Quite apart from the comings and goings of Manchester United, the Great Britain rugby league team passed through a formight ago and today the England rugby union team follows suit. Sadly it is virtually impossible to conceive that England will beat New Zealand on the ground where against all predictions, the country's rugby league players beat

It is said that the All Blacks. overcome by the aura imposed by the so-called Theatre of Dreams, were less than impressive during their closed training there this week and received appropriate admonition from John Hart, their coach. If that is true, then England must hope that playing a match there will have the same effect, because a comparison of the qualities of the teams leaves no room for

No 1248

P/211 7 3

Sec. 2.

doubt over the result. That has been Hart's problem this week, particularly after his midweek team scored 59 points against Emerging England on Tuesday. Eng land, his players have been told, represent one of the most demanding opponents of an entire year in which the All Blacks have been unbeaten. Seven of the visitors' starting

Reality awaits in Theatre of Dreams

XV were at Twickenham four years ago when a well-prepared but limited England side beat them 15-9, and the desire to put the record

straight is strong. Stern reality sets England's present squad several removes from the experienced, skilful, confident unit that they face this afternoon. Even Clive Woodward, the England coach, could not refrain from applauding as he watched the All Blacks go about their business on Tuesday.

Stern reality, too, was John Mitchell's message yesterday. The England assistant coach knows that one game together, against Australia last week, is nothing like enough to even evoke genuine comparison with New Zealand.

"We have to focus on learning, improving, establishing credibility," Mitchell, a New Zealander himself, said, "I believe in the players England have but it will be a huge exercise for them. There are



wide cracks in our system and it's about time we recognised

The cracks include the inability of the Allied Dunbar Premiership to provide the degree of intense competition to a sufficient number of English-qualified players that the Super 12 tournament offers southern hemisphere players. In common with an increasing number of other administrators, he seeks a global compe-

France v South Africa 2.45pm. tition in which English regional teams can compete.

The Premiership doesn't look after English rugby at all," Mitchell, who is director of rugby at Sale, said, "There has to be a resolution between the owner-clubs and the Rugby Football Union."

That is for the future. The present offers an occasion that has generated excitement and enthusiasm throughout the North West. A capacity crowd

scrummaging performance much improved on the ragged display against Australia, which inhibited nearly everything else England hoped to do. Set-piece play was one area in which England, down the years, have been consistently competitive, but Mitch-ell now finds himself having to enforce a different, more attacking, mentality.

Then there is Jonah Lomu. Two years ago, when the giant New Zealand wing was unleashed upon the World Cup. many observers suggested that he was the difference between the All Blacks and the rest. It was a naive view then and remains so, since New Zealand have proved over and over again how effective a

force they are without him. That said, Lornn creates problems. The management have had faith in me and I have to return that, there's no way I can let them or my teammates down," he said after

learning that a tour designed to reintroduce him gently to top-flight sport after his pro-tracted illness will now restore him to full-blown international rugby. England, rightly, have not designed their defence to cope with one individual, but his ability to suck in defenders will be the ultimate test of their pattern of play.

If England are to compete this afternoon, it will be through an enormous combi-nation of self-will and pride in individual performance. From the speed and guile of Christian Cullen at full back to the rock at loose-head prop that Craig Dowd has become, New Zealand hold the trumps. They are probably the best side that has ever worn the All-Black jersey," Mitchell said, and it is not being too harsh to suggest that, of England's side, only Martin Johnson and, perhaps, Lawrence Dallaglio, might press for a place among them.

But the opportunity to measure oneself against the best comes all too rarely and, after today, England will know far more of the world that they seek to inhabit. Not only that - within the next formight, against South Africa and then New Zealand again, they will have the chance to put that knowledge to some use.

Last hurrah for Parc, page 34 Perry blossoms, page 35 Lawrence Dallaglio, page 35

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by saying he was happy to play his part in the coach's squad system.

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Zola: impressive

Chelsea celebrate Zola's big day at Blackburn

BY OLIVER HOLE, POOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THERE was no cake and there were no candles, but, just a few days after a daughter was born to Rund Gullit, they were celebrating a different kind of birthday down at Chelsea's training ground yesterday as they prepared for today's match at Blackburn Rovers.

In English league terms, Gian-franco Zola, the diminutive Italian who, with Dennis Bergkamp and Erie Cantona, has been the most successful of the foreign invaders, will be a year old when Chelsea stride out at Ewood

Park to try to press their claims for the championship. Signed from Parma, he made his debut against the Lanca-shire club i2 months ago.

Zola appeared almost sheepish

when he spoke at a press conference yesterday about his first year in English football. "It was impossible for me to imagine that I would have such a fautastic 12 months when I first arrived," he said. "You have to be

positive when you start at a new club, but you cannot expect what I have had, it has been a hard year, but the payment for it has been special. We are in a good position in the league and we have to keep going. The signs are positive, but we cannot get lazy."

Praised by Gullit, who applauded the way Zola has adapted to a new culture and said that there was nothing more he could add to his I am like a child and somebody said to me recently that I am not a child any more. Now it is not a problem for me to miss the odd game."

Maybe four or five years ago, it

would have been hard for me to accept

it," Zola said, "but when I play football

El Tel on top Down Under, page 36 Match-by-match guide, page 38

Waugh's six makes a mark

MARK WAUGH, the Australia batsman, hit one of the biggest sixes seen at the WACA ground. Perth, yesterday as he and Steve, his twin brother, dominated the New Zealand attack on the second day of the second Test.

Australia were in a commanding position at the end of a rain-affected day, having made 235 for four in their first innings in reply to New Zcaland's 217.

The Waugh twins rescued their side with a fourth-wicket partnership of 153, scored at a run a minute, after the first three wickets had fallen for 71. It is the third time that the brothers have figured in a century partnership in a Test. Mark Waugh was dismissed for 86 shortly before the close. 79, with lan Healy on three.

Mark, who needed a good score to preserve his place in the side, ensured a place in the folklore of the ground when he straight drove a ball from Daniel Vettori, the leftarm spinner, on to the top of a five-storey stand, 130 yards away. Observers compared the shot with one by Kim Hughes for Australia against England in the Centenary Test at Lord's in 1980.

☐ The Sri Lanka captain. Arjuna Ranatunga, was involved in an angry exchange with Srinivas Venkatarag-havan, the Indian umpire, in Mohali yesterday as India laboured to take charge of the first Test. India took their overnight score of 91 for no loss to 293 for four, 76 behind Sri Lanka's first innings score

Venkataraghavan turned down two appeals for bat-pad catches against Navjot Sidhu, during an over from Muttiah Muralitharan, the spinner, Ranatunga remonstrated with the umpire and also spoke to Steve Bucknor, the West Indian umpire. Venkataraghavan, who had turned down several other appeals, called Ranatunga back before the next over and another heated exchange followed. Sidhu, who had made 110 at the time, was eventually dismissed for 130 after an innings lasting eight hours.

Scoreboards, page 40

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TENNIS: FRENCHWOMAN GAINS REVENGE BY ADVANCING TO SEMI-FINALS

Hingis defences finally pierced

FOUR months can make a world of difference in tennis. In July Martina Hingis was on top of the world, winning tournaments and grand-slam events at will. Opponents outside the top three were cannon-fodder and Mary Pierce was in that unfortunate group, taking only two games from the champion in San Diego. On Thursday night, however, she gained revenge, overpowering Hingis in the quarter-finals of the Chase Championships 6-3, 2-6, 7-5.

It was a remarkable performance from Pierce, who at times appeared so nervous that even breathing was beyond her. Hingis may be streets ahead of everyone else in the rankings and none can deny that she is the player of the year - an award she will collect here tomorrow - but she is still young. At 17 she lacks the physical power of some of her rivals and, at the

New York results

end of a heavy tournament schedule, the legs are weary and the mind is

Pierce, on the other hand, is desperate to show that she can fulfil the potential she showed in winning the Australian Open two years ago. injury, illness and a lack of nous in tight matches have held her back but. given her chance at Madison Square Garden, she stuck to her guns to

Pierce's biggest problem has always been her ability to throw away a winning lead in a flurry of emotional and dramatic gestures. Even when she had Hingis on her knees in the first set, rattling to a 5-0 lead, she began to wobble. The forehand that had pulverised Hingis started to misfire. Her own service, which had been working surprisingly consistently, fal-tered. It took her 21 minutes to get to her first set point and another 14 minutes to convert her fourth.

Normally Hingis can weather such

storms, but on this occasion she admitted that she was stymied. "In the first set I didn't have a clue what to do, it was all too fast," she said. But, knowing the Pierce of old and having beaten her twice this year, Hingis waited for the cracks to show.

They came in the second set. Hingis broke for a 2-0 lead and Pierce responded with the full range of amateur dramatics, flouncing around the court, glaring at errant line judges and harrumphing in indignation as

the points went against her. But, with the enthusiastic New York crowd behind her. Pierce launched another assault in the third set. She broke Hingis for a 2-1 lead, lost her own service immediately and then went 4-2 down before charging up the forehand again. As Hingis grew tired, she gave Pierce the ammunition she needed to thunder the winners down the line and leave Hingis flat-footed.

Battling back to 5-5, she then broke Hingis for a 6-5 lead, Hingis was not impressed and slung her racket from the baseline to the umpire's chair in disgust and was lucky not to be given a warning for such a display of petuance. Pierce was not so fortunate. Trying to compose herself and serve out for the match, she was pulled up for time-wasting. But when, finally, she was able to settle the nerves long enough to get into the railies, she held firm just long enough to convert her third match point with a backhand volley after 2hr 6min.

"I think Martina was a step slower tonight," Pierce said. "But it just shows that I can beat anybody on any day when Mary Pierce is playing her game. The time will come when I will be able to play this way consistently." Her next chance to prove it will come today, when she faces Nathalie

Tauziat in an all-French semi-final. Tauziat defeated Iva Majoli, the No 6 seed, 7-6, 7-6 and managed to reduce the 20-year-old French Open champion to tears as a result. "She is 30, I am 20," Majoli said. "Today she played like she was 20 and I was 60."



Pierce is jubilant after overcoming her nerves to defeat Hingis

HOCKEY

Cannock face a sterner test

CANNOCK'S position as leaders of the men's National League premier division will be under threat tomorrow when they entertain Canterbury, who have enhanced their reputation as a highscoring side.

When the teams met in a

28/1

200/1

300/1

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY UNION

HANDICAP BETTING

England with a 24 point start

11/10 England **16/1** Draw New Zealand **4/6**

11-15 pts

.16-20 pts.

.21-25 pts

26-30 pts

25/1 Drawn Match

Scotland with a 12 point start

5/6 Scotland 16/1 Draw Australia 5/6

Murrayfield, Kick-off 3,00pm, Live on BBC TV.

.1-5 pts

.11-15 pts

16-20 pts

.21-25 pts

.26-30 pts.

.6-10 pts

WARGIN N. ZEALAND

9/2

.9/2

4/1

9/2

13/2

10/1

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

pre-season practice match. Canterbury were much below strength and lost 5-0; but Martin Gilbody, the Cannock manager, said vesterday: "I'm not expecting anything quite as easy as that."

and Parnham. The key players in the Canterbury line-up are Hum-phries and Danny Laslett in attack, Hacker at centre half and Evennett, a dependable figure in defence.

Cannock again will be with-out Hughes-Rowlands, their resourceful left half, who is

still ill, but their defence will

be stabilised by the return from injury of Kalbir Takher

Southgate, in second place only one point behind Cannock, have an important date at Reading, the titleholders, full of confidence after a shaky start to the season and well in the running in third position. Both clubs will be at full strength.

Nick Thompson and Scott Smith have recovered from injury for Old Loughtonians' home match against Teddington. Haydon, a talented Eng-land Under-21 World Cup team defender, is unavailable for the visitors.

Relegation-threatened Beeston face a hard task when they visit fourth-placed East Grinstead, and Doncaster, although encouraged by their 4-2 victory over Hounslow, could have a fight on their hands against Guildford, who will be hoping to lift them-selves off the bottom of the

Hounslow, who are at home to Barford Tigers, will be without Archer, who earned an automatic suspension after being sent off last week, and they will also miss Zac Jones. the defender, because of

Havant and Surbiton, the two clubs setting the pace in the first division, are expected to maintain their dominance. Havant are away at Bromley and Surbiton visit Gloucester City.

Sailing

Cayard hits trouble as Smith surges on

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

IN WHAT could be a turning point in his Whitbread Round the World yacht race campaign, Lawrie Smith, of Great Britain. on Silk Cut, yesterday continued his headlong charge through the Southern Ocean, overtaking EF Language to move into fourth

place for the leg.
If maintained, this greatly improves Smith's overall standing for the race, moving him up from sixth to third, while Paul Cayard, skipper of EF Language, is dropped from first overall to second, 10 points behind Knut Frostad's Innovation Kvaerner, which is lying in second place for this

Smith's reputation for pushing to the limit, and for flying spinnakers in conditions in which most people would not even think about going sailing, has again been fully justified, with Silk Cut continuing to set the fastest pace in the fleet as the cold and exhausted crews plough on towards Fremantle, Western Australia. In the 60 hours to midnight on Thursday, the purple boat with the shark motif on her hull covered no fewer than 1,040.3 miles at an

average speed of 17.33 knots. Smith easily overhauled Cayard and by yesterday he had established a margin of 27.8 miles over the American. Next on Smith's target list is his old sailing companion and fellow Briton, Paul Standbridge, at the helm of Toshiba, who is a further 140 miles up the track, but who is

also making good speed. The striking thing about Smith and his young crew's performance over the past

four days has been their ability to push hard without apparently breaking anything. This, as much as sheer

boatspeed, has been the key to

catching Cayard, whose fears

in Cape Town that he would

be in for a baptism of fire on his first race through the Southern Ocean have proved ali too real. Cayard reported what he called "another night of terror" on a boat that has already been hampered by torn spinnakers and two broken poles. "What happens out

here systematically is that one

small mistake leads to something bigger, which in turn leads to a disaster," Cayard Yesterday, it was a nasty broach at a time when bowman, Curtis Blewitt, was up the mast and in danger of water. The forces on the rig broke a repaired pole and snapped the vang or kicker. "We were resetting the spinnaker after repairing it from an earlier small mistake,' Cayard said. "It opened before

spun into the wind. "Curtis was up the rig while it was shaking violently - 1 thought he was going to die. We had to blow the halyard to get born away. We got Curtis down and he is okay, but he won't ever forget that broach."

As Silk Cut marched on by. Cayard was left to reflect: "I try to keep the big picture in mind; this is leg two of nine... what matters is where this all boils down to next May coming down the English Channel on the way to the finish line."

RUGBY UNION

Ireland's double change

BY KARL JOHNSTON

IRELAND'S selectors are not panicking after last week's loss to the All Blacks. Yesterday, they announced only two changes to the team to play Canada at Lansdowne Road tomorrow week. Kevin Maggs and David Erskine, who both came on as substitutes last week, replace John McWeeney and Eddie Halvey at left wing and blind-

side flanker respectively.

There could yet be two enforced alterations, with Keith Wood and Eric Miller troubled by ankle injuries. Allen Clarke, of Northamp-ton, and Victor Costello, of St Mary's College, will assemble with the squad in Limerick on hooker and No 8.

Pat Whelan, the team manager, said that a final decision on Wood will be taken on Wednesday night. If he is ruled out, Ross Nesdale will take over, Clarke will sit on the bench and Nick Popplewell will captain the side Miller's doctors are confident, but he will be given the same time as Wood to prove himself. If he is not fit, Costello will come in.

Whelan said that McWeeney needs more time to adjust. "His talent hasn't disappeared, but he has had. to make a huge step-up from nowhere. And Kevin Maggs is a very well-rounded player. who impressed us on the summer development tour in New Zealand," Whelan said.

The call between Erskine and Halvey was close. When he came on last Saturday, he was more impressive than Eddie, but Eddie is in the squad, anyway, and when possible, we want to operate a 21-man system."
Brad Free, an Australian

with Irish qualifications, is the screen half in the Ireland A team to play Canada next Wednesday at Ravenhill.

S Africa bidding for repeat

By Our Sports Staff

A YEAR ago, South Africa came to the Parc des Princes in Paris on the back of a good win in Bordeaux and sneaked home 13-12 to secure a 2-0 series win over France Today they have a chance to repeat that success in the 66th and final rugby international to be played at the Parc and become the first team to win successive series in France.

Given that they were beaten by the British Isles and in the tri-nations tournament by the All Blacks earlier this year. and that, in Nick Mallett, they have their third coach of 1997, it would be a remarkable turnaround. "Nick Malleit said to me that in France it takes a good team to draw a series and a great one to win. Gary Teichmann, the Spring ... 14. bok captain, said. "It won't be./ easy but we must restore some: pride."

South Africa will want to emulate their form in the opening 60 minutes of the first Test in Lyons last week, which they won 36-32. They were quick and imaginative on the break, but they will not wantto revisit the last 20 minutes of that game, when France surged back from 36-15 down with three tries.

The loss of Joost van der Westhuizen, the scrum half, who tore a groin muscle in Lyons, is a blow to South Africa, though Rassie Eras-mus, the flanker, will be fit to

play. The touring team are well aware, however, of the effect that the Parc des Princes will have on France. "It's a great stadium, very intimidating, and France will want to go out with a win." James Small, the wing, said.

For France, Olivier Merie retains his place in the second row ahead of Fabien Pelous, while David Venditti, the Brive centre, comes in for

Brive centre, comes in for Laurent Leffamand.

PUNCE: J-L Sesourly: D Venditi. 9 Glas.

C Lemelson. P Saint Andre (papear); T Lecrot. F Galfriet. C Galfrano, M cell Meso.

F Tournaire. C Brouzet, O Merie. P Beneticn.

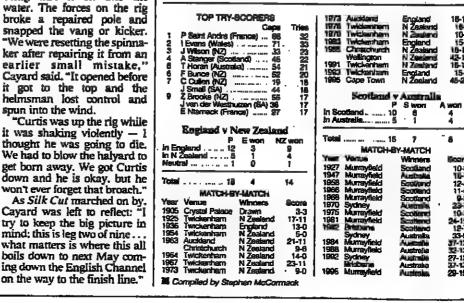
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SOUTH APPROAP Photogomery J Smell. A Styrmen, D Mutr. P Roescule: H Honbied, W Swanepoet: O du Randt, J Detton. A Garvey, M Andrews, K Otto, F Emanus.; A Vertex, G Teschmann (papear): Replacements: J de Beer, D vent Oyt. A Aster, B Da.

RUGBY UNION STATISTICS

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TOP INTERNATIONAL F	BINIO	-SCORE	RS (prese	nt players)	
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4 E Elwood (Ireland)	. 1	4	MG 2	42 19 20	172
6 P Saint Andre (France) * 12	_ :		= =	66	167 151
7 C Spencer (NZ)	8	-	20 =	. 9	147
8 C Chairners (Scot)	ï			52	140
9 P Grayson (England)		В	3 4	52	133
10 A Thomas (Wales) 7	1		10 —	14	130
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TOP TRY-SCORERS	- 1	TETTO AM	ddaw	England	15-10



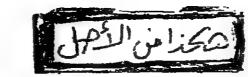


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Scotland a

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MOINDA

S Africa , bidding for repeat BY OF R SPORTS STAFF

A TEAR ago, South Aling name to the Paredes Princes & there on the back of a god with in Hordeaux and sneaker with in morocours and medical facility 13-12 to secure a 24 secure with oner france Today They have a chance to repair or a ruthe international tole a read to the Pare and become tiest team to win decrease Town I rance

to year that they were bear the Braish Isle, and in the a change temperatural by the al Backs earlier this year and that, in Nick Mallen, the and he a remarkable of the that the France ! Charles (final) to quant where and a great offe to any Gery Cochmann, the Spring week his president tempte and

South Africa will want to promine their torin in the grammings of the for The transland week which the wast first Dist and of the way that there is all the see on the will not ke the state of the last 30 minned State of the Whole Frage and the second section of the The strike of the serum has Supplied of the Property of the second second

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CH STATISTICS

20-year-olds with the sporting world at their feet. How often do we find sportsmen full of premature gravitas, analysing every last moment until their eyes appear to be turning square, rather than demonstrating so evident a pleasure at having raised the cup and finding the taste to their liking. Today Perry wins his second England cap at full back. Last week

gumshield that does it but put a 1960s-

Perry and he would look like

Herman — he of the Hermits, for

those whose memories of 30-year-

old pop groups may be fraying at the edges. There is the same fresh, slightly aquiline face that always seemed ready to light up in a smile

and Perry adds to the impression.

with his leggy, coltish appearance. One of Peter Noone's hits, as lead

singer of Herman and the Hermits,

would have suited Perry down to

the ground: I'm into something

good. An hour after England's

drawn game with Australia a week

which even Lawrence

ago, which even Dallaglio had categorised as disap-

pointing. Perry was bubbling over with sheer delight at the moment, at having made his debut for his

country and discovering that he

That is how it should be for

had what it takes.

it was Twickenham, this week it is Old Trafford. Last week it was Australia, 1991 world champions, this week it is New Zealand, best in the world, even if they are not

David Hands on a back finding his feet with England



Perry, who will earn his second cap at full back against New Zealand today, is hoping that his exuberant style of play will be suited to Old Trafford

New post lets Perry enjoy life to the full

so much be absorbed so soon? "It's still taking time for my selection to sink in even now." Perry said as England prepared in the Cheshire countryside this week.

Clearly this is so. In his youth that is to say, a couple of years or so ago - Perry would cheerfully have

completed 72 holes of golf in a day but now a mere 18 leaves him tired, given his exertions in his new profession of rugby player and the mental energy required by every member of a new team bedding down in the highest class of company. -himself as fortunate in the extreme at union accepted professionalism, he was

about to leave school, was making his way with highprofile Bath and was undecided contract with the Bath academy of youth helped to decide him, though his association with the club goes back many years.
His father, Brendan, played there and became a club adminis-

trator; Matt Perry, the youngest of

TODAY'S TEAMS	AT OLD TRAFFORD
ENGLAND	NEW ZEALAMS
	LS C M Callen (Manawatu)
D Rees (Sale)	4. J W Witten (Otego)
W 3 St Greenwood (Leicester)	13 FE Bunce (North Harbour)
PR de Glanville (Bath)	12 A leremia (Wellington)
A A Adelsaye (Sath)	11 JT Lanse (Counties)
WICatt (Beth)	A P Mehrtens (Canterbury)
K P'P Bracken (Saracens)	J W Marshall (Canterbury)*
Leonard (Harlequins)	C W Dowd (Auckland)
Cocker(ii (Le)cester)	N J Howitz (Southland)
D J Carforth (Leicester)	0 M Brown (Auckland)
10 O Johnson (Leicester)	10 Jones (North Harbour)
8 S Archar (Newcastle)	R W Brooks (Auckland)
LB N Dallaglio (Waspe)	C Randell (Otago)
R A RIF (Serecens)	J A Krunfield (Otago)
A J Diprose (Saracens)	Z V Brooks (Auckland)
Captain	*Cectalio
Befores: P Man	obell (Australia)
REPLACEMENTS: 15 & 5 Healey	REPLACEMENTS: 165 Nicleon
(Laloester), 17 P J Grayson	(Wastern), 17-1 P Preston
(Northempton), 19 N A Back (Lakester), 19 D J Grewcock	(Netlington), 13 A F Slowers (Auckdand), 19 C C Rischelmann
Saracensi, 20 G C Rountree	(Audicanii), 20 M R Allen (Mereschi).
(Leicester), 21 A E Long (Bath)	25 A D Cliver (Otugo)

three children, joined the mini-section as an eight-year-old before moving with his mother, Berna-dette, to live in Wales. The sporting noose fastened when he went as a boarder to Millfield, where so many sports are accessible. He tried them all but rugby and cricket

> He "batted and bowled a bit" in the same XI as Ben Hollioake and played fly half for the school, the position in which he

became the staple

won colts caps. At that time Richard Hill, the former England scrum ing the land for talent to play in Bath's development XVs; Perry received the invitation and needed little coaxing to join the senior training squad.
"It was only when

I joined the club again that I changed played at centre and full back, which is my preferred position," Perry said. His maturing process was aided in South Africa, where he spent four months playing with Durban Crusaders' under-21 team and was able to watch Henry Honiball, the leggy Springbok fly half, at close range. That visit forced him to defer

taking up a place at University College, Cardiff, and then the rugby took over. "Everything has happened so quickly this season it has become very important to concentrate on training well. I've found that if you give 100 per cent to that, you'll get the opportunity to play in the first team," he said. "I've learnt things off different players, from Jerry [Guscott] and Mike [Catt]. I also learns lot with England Under-21 in Australia last summer." he said.

"I never thought I'd be playing against the Australian seniors and was nervous during the week's build-up because I didn't know what to expect, how much quicker, how much more physical it might be. If it had been New Zealand straight off, it might have been tougher but now I'm looking forward to them."

When England last played New Zealand, during the 1995 World Cup, Perry watched with his mates in the senior common room at Millfield. "It was unbelievable, they created so much space in a tournament where there just hadn't been any, defences were so tight." That being so, he knows what to

not been able to finish the job."
Today would be a good time to
start, especially with South Africa

Shade Munro, the lock forward

who won seven caps for Scotland.

yesterday announced his retire-

ment because of a knee injury.

to play in a fortnight.

Our self-belief and desire mean prospects are not all black

LAWRENCE

DALLAGLIO

f we are going to take on New Zealand and win, then continuity is the key. England have to apply pressure and we have to keep the ball, not just through one or two phases of play, but through three, four or five if we are to give ourselves a realistic chance of

That was the most disappointing aspect of the game with Australia at Twickenham last Saturday, and the Australians felt it as much as we did. We failed to put them under the sort of pressure that we have created in other matches and they failed to test us in the way that we needed to be

Australia did score two tries, broken play and both from ball that was initially England's. There was no build-up of pressure, such as the British Lions achieved in South Africa and which the All Blacks themselves do so well against Ireland last Saturday

and against Emerging Eng-land at Huddersfield on

Ireland came out with an aggressive attitude that was very effective for 40 or 50 minutes, but then New Zealand upped the tempo. You have to sustain a level of performance for 80 minutes, possibly even 85. It doesn't take a degree in rocket science to know that a level of intensity has to be achieved that will last the entire match and that is the question that English rugby as a whole has to ask itself: does our competitive structure develop the players who can do

In New Zealand it does and South Africa and Australia can tap into the same kind of system. All of us, players and administrators, in England are aware of that and are looking to modify our system accordingly. The Lions demonstrated in South Africa the opposing 22 takes their fancy. We need to create as many what can be

'Atmosphere

will be

very different

from a

normal rugby

crowd'

achieved. though the atmosphere surrounding our present series is far removed from that of. say, the first international against the Springboks in

Cape Town during the summer, when the only people who

ourselves. Everyone else presumed that we would be taken to the cleaners and that brought its response from the British and Irish players. Now we are at home and. though I accept that England are massive underdogs, make no mistake, the young squad is full of enthusiasm and the desire to

do weli. The players carry no emotional baggage about playing the southem-hemisphere countries on a regular basis and coming off second best. We may lack maturity as a team, but we expected to go in against Australia and win there was no consideration of defeat, let alone a draw, which is why the sense of anticlimax was so intense. But we have learnt from last week, individually and collectively, and the result was by

no means a damning one. The self-belief is the same before the game at Old Trafford today, even against the most effective team in the world. The game on Tuesday made it clear to everyone watching that New Zealand are the best in the business at punishing mistakes. Emerging England were punished for every turnover, even though they went 9-0 down, there was no sense of panic among the All Blacks, just a total belief that they could impose their rhythm on the game, and it will take an awesome display to counteract that effect today. But that's the challenge and it's not one that we

will step back from.
It will be the first time that I have played against them, which only emphasises how few fixtures we have had against them. The last time England sent a tour

Zealand was the B team of 1992 and in 1993. when I was a the World Cup sevens, I was rested from the side that played New Zealand Unfortunately, I missed the last World Cup so this occasion is an exciting one for me.

I have tremendous re-Zealand rugby and for this team, which has clearly demonstrated that they

possess individuals who are among the best in their respective positions in the world. I'm delighted that we have two games against them. One of the Australia is that, having discovered more about them, we do not have the chance to put into practice what we have learnt, though I accept the danger of oversaturation of internationals.

It may be that most people will write us off but, for the team, that is not an issue. It is what we believe ourselves that matters. In that respect, I was disappointed by the crowd at Twickenham last Saturday: you need your own crowd to get behind you before the game starts, not merely when

edges as posopposition and one of those is having a very atmospheric stadium in which to invite other countries to play. I agree that the style and standard of rugby helps to generate a buzz

among support-

ers, but there believed we could win were has to be a meeting place between expectation and reality. This England team has only just been brought together, one third of it was entirely new against Australia and we were up against high-class well-drilled. opponents.

That's a situation where we need the crowd behind us from the word go and I'm sure that Old Trafford will be buzzing from Ilam onwards. There's bound to be a huge amount of northern passion: I've watched football at Old Trafford and I can safely say the atmosphere will be different to that of a normal

rugby crowd.

My previous visit is a reminder that even the best of teams can come unstuck. It was a couple of years ago and I was following Chelsea against Manchester United. Chelsea, who are a bit of a bogey side for United, won. This England team know that we have to improve as a side, but if our supporters see the players busting a gut to do just that, they cannot go home unhappy.

Scotland attempt to emerge from mist well against these sides but have

THE Lloyds TSB international between Scotland and Australia at Murrayfield should provide both countries with a clearer picture of where they stand now and what they can expect in the future. Australia are ending what for them has been an unsatisfactory season. while Scotland are starting on a new venture with a mixture of optimism and trepidation.

Since the sides met at Murrayfield last year — when Australia won 29-19 — Scotland have underperformed in the five nations' championship before partially redeeming themselves on their development tour of South Africa. With five players also. contributing to the success of the British Isles, Scotland appeared to be emerging from the mists with a better idea of their best side and, more importantly, with some strength in depth.

However, a combination of injuries and selectorial whim means the Scotland side that plays today shows 11 changes, two of them positional, from that which lost to Australia for the sixth consecutive time last November. There is a new captain in Andy Nicol, and four new caps, Grant McKelvey, at ball against the Australians, who

hooker, Scott Murray, at lock, Adam Roxburgh, at blind-side flanker and James Craig, on the right wing. Duncan Hodge has also been drafted in this week to replace the injured Rowen Shepherd at full

back. It will be Hodge's first full cap and he will also be the goal kicker. It is a gamble given that Hodge normally plays at either fly half or centre. But the selectors have placed considerable faith in the threequarter line, which shows attacking potential, and wanted to keep disruption to a minimum. With Jim Teller and lan McGeechan now heavily involved in team preparation it will be

interesting to see whether the dynamic game plan that served the Lions so well will be the blueprint Scotland adopt. They would hope so, but the loss

through injury of the forwards, Tom Smith, Doddie Weir and Rob Wainwright, is a significant setback to those ambitions, and the

Scottish pack is inexperienced and

looks lightweight. Winning enough

By MARK SOUSTER

did so much damage to England last week, will be their difficulty. Nicol, who leads Scotland for the

first time in a full international. agreed that winning and, more importantly, keeping possession would be the key. "Australia have top-class backs but if they do not have the ball they cannot use it," he said yesterday. "There is a great spirit in our squad; fresh ideas, enthusiasm and exuberance can overcome any rawness."

Whether that will be enough to

lift the Scots, who are notoriously slow out of the blocks in the autumn, remains to be seen. With Townsend at fly haif any-

thing is possible, but after Austra-hia's lacklustre draw against England, in which they at least scored two tries, Rod Macqueen will hope that his influence is beginning to bear fruit after Greg Smith's unhappy tenure. Had John Eales converted any one of four missed kicks then Australia would have won at Twickenham. Scotland last beat Australia in Brishage in 1982, the only occasion

that they have recorded an away victory over one of the southern hemisphere big three. David John-ston, now the assistant coach, played that day. "Since then it hs been a case of falling at the final hurdle," he said. "We have played

TODAY'S TEA	MS AT	MURRAYFIELD
SCOTLAND	T	AUSTRALIA
D W Hodge (Watsonlans)	3.5	Lerkham (ACT)
J M Craig (West of Scotland)	14	B N Tune (Queensland)
A G Stanger (Harrick)	13	T J Horaz (Queensland)
A V Tutt (Newcastle)	12	P W Howard (ACT)
K.M. Logan (Wasps)	. 11	J W Roff (ACT)
& P J Townsend (Northempton)	10	E Platting (Queensiand)
A D Nicol (Bath) Comm	9	6 M Gregan (ACT)
D I W Hilton (Bath)	1	R L L Harry (NSW)
G McKelvey (Watsonians)	2	Mi A Foley (Queensland)
M J Samuel (Northempton)	3	A 7 Blades (NSW)
S.J. Campitell (Dunden HSFP)	4	J Langford (NSW)
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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Climbing back to the top Down Under

After a rollercoaster career,

the world stage beckons

once more for Terry Venables

t is a wild ride with Terry. It is worldwide now, too. Not just White Hart Lane and Lancaster Gate. Sometimes it is wideeyed and breathless, like Michael Palin rushing for some overcrowded paddlesteamer; sometimes it is sassy. like Jonathan Raban on a hulking transatlantic freighter; sometimes it is more broading, like Marlow setting off up the Thames on his yawl and his voyage to the heart of

You can take the tour with the most captivating, compel-ling yarn-spinner in English football from a cosy little back room in a Knightsbridge wine bar. It starts in Australia these days with the improbable tale of Venables coaching the antipodeans to the brink of the World Cup finals in France next summer. That part, at least, like a clump of Marlow's sky, is a "benign immensity of unstained light".

But there are times when Venables's career has resembled one of the dark places of the earth, and he takes you there, too. Unflinchingly, he heads back to Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, back to some of those dark days before Euro 96 apparatchiks at the Football Association were treating him with a distaste that his achievements as England coach did not warrant.

There are the happy times too, of course - the winning of the Spanish championship with Barcelona - but, somehow, the collapse of his relationship with the FA is the best part of the journey, the part when it gets bumpy. This is where the passion rises in Venables's voice.

It might not have the exoticism of, say, the match in Teheran today, where Austra-lia play the first of two matches against Iran in which an aggregate victory will book their place in France, but it gives you a glimpse of the nobility beneath the ducking and diving, East-End wide boy, El Tel façade that has been pinned on him.

For a moment, when he talks about those struggles with Sugar and how the FA tried to humiliate him before

top tables fuelling inspiration

with numerous cups of coffee.

After much chin-stroking and

brow-furrowing their caffeine-

kindled schemes catch fire and

– hey presto –

the dream is

Before they can

sell the idea, they

have to sell the

yours, at a price.

"I am actually quite proud of what I did in not standing quietly proud of the way ! handled it, because I don't under any circumstances. No one should do that or else you are not worth the salt.

you should have done this or that', but I shouldn't have, I shouldn't have done that, otherwise I am nobody. I am now the coach of Australia win lose or draw and England and Glenn [Hoddle, the England coach] and everybody at the FA are happy and I'm happy, because I have got complete belief in what I do.

I will say that. But regrets? Please, if you believe anything. believe me, because I have this problem. People say, 'You are just saying this or you are just regrets whatsoever. I have got me to live with. In later years, I will be saying, 'Well done, son, you didn't say to Noel White, oh please let me have another chance". Who is he to tell me? It is not on. And that is my honest feeling. I have said it to you as succinctly as I have ever

discussing Sugar, him down as they have

happy times," he said, "but I have had two or three years of different way. I have not enjoyed it and he hasn't enjoyed it, I wouldn't think, but

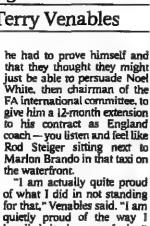
the waterfront.

"People say. 'Oh you dope.

There is a little envy of what is happening to England.

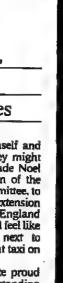
is tone grows more reflective, even a little weary, when who has attempted to bring down Venables just as Venables, now the Portsmouth chairman, has tried to bring dragged each other through

a situation where most likely Sugar and me, if we had our time again, we would most likely have dealt with it in a



for that," Venables said. "I am think you should keep a job

"My life has been full of



Venables admits to being a little envious of England's success, but he has plenty to smile about himself, having taken Australia to the brink of the World Cup finals next summer we both want to win and we won't give in. So, it's been maybe unnecessary, but sometimes you get dealt hands that

you have to deal with. "What do you do? Walk away and people say you are guilty. They tell you it's only the lawyers that make the money and I agree with that





wholeheartedly. I am poorer in one respect and richer in another for knowing what has gone on and how naive over the years you are about what goes on and how far tentacles can reach when it comes to power. It is frightening for the man in the street."

It has always been to the man in the street that Venables has instinctively appealed. He has got the common touch, a kind of natural affinity with the public that someone such as Tony Blair has successfully managed to manufacture for himself. Even though he is the England coach no longer, there are still those who are openly hoping

Mark Hodkinson's Barnsley odyssey takes in the muddy waters of marketing

Efforts to refine the talk of the town

that not only will Australia make it to the World Cup finals, but also that, once there, fate will pitch them against England.

Since Venables was persuaded earlier this year to take over as coach of an Australia team that boasts promising young FA Carling Premier ship players such as Mark Bosnich, of Aston Villa, Stan Lazarides, of West Ham United, and Harry Kewell, of Leeds United, they have won 12 successive matches

Some were against international novices such as the Solomon Islands, against nations such as Hungary and Norway. At the tralia produced what many consider to be their best perhighly-rated Tunisia.

Today, they will try to make it a lucky thirteenth win against Iran before attempting to complete the job in Mel-bourne a week later. For Venables, it will be the culmination of the latest in a long line of repair jobs that have seen him drafted in like a doctor patching up a patient and then told to leave when the recovery is complete.

"If I look back over the last jobs that I have had," he said, "they have all been ailing teams that I have made feel better again. Tottenham was a hard job. People do not remember how the club was and how the players were when 1 took over. Everyone was at the end of their careers. Gough had left, Hoddle had left, Ardiles had finished. Clemence had finished. I built it up again. It was terrific, then you get it right and you're off.

"And then you get an ailing England and you get it right and you're off. And an Austra-

newspaper, the Barnsley Chron-

panoply of so-

cial problems. The role of

dishonour in-

cludes the usual

amalgam of

drug dealers, drunks, aggres-

cence dodgers

and people who

relieve them-

selves in hedge-

rows after a

night on the

smalltown

headlines and you get it right and then for different reasons, maybe because of distances, I

might be off.

The thing now is to get through these two games ble explosion of interest from the Australian people, but you are always going to struggle with a sport, I believe, that is not driven by television. If it is not driven by television, it will not prosper quickly enough. But at the same time, Australia cannot afford to be out of this world game. They want to be in it and they are trying

won't allow it. Before I went there, I had a lot of trouble with the fact that everyone wanted an Austra-To be fair, I find them quite good. If they want to have a row, they'll have one and I'll have one as well and we'll have a beer and that's how it should be. I find it a healthy sort of fight. I have always

loved a challenge. There is not a chance of even dreaming about me having divided loyalties if Australia play England in the World Cup. I gave every ounce I had for England when I was coach and I loved it. It was my home country and it was a special feeling. To the day I die, I am very proud of that and they can't take that away. But if it comes to Australia against England, not a chance."

And so the journey with the Socceroos continues. From Teheran to Melbourne and then, if the fates are kind, on to Marseilles for the World Cup draw on December 4 and the competition next June. Terry Venables could have been nobody if he had sacrificed his pride. Instead he is somebody.

Chile trio ready to turn up the heat



The 17-year-old Pelé, centre, galvanised the 1958 Brazil World Cup-winning team

Is there a new

Pelé ready to

grab headlines in

the World Cup?

BRIAN

GLANVILLE

ometh the World Cup, cometh a new star. Pelé in Sweden, 1958. Amarildo when Pelé fell by the wayside, in Chile, 1962. Geoff Hurst, of England, four years later, when the West Ham United player replaced Jimmy Greaves promptly and powerfully headed the winning goal against Argentina in that bruising quarter-final at Wembley and added another three in the final, the second of which may or may not have been valid.

Who, in France, next year, will emerge with such kudos? Marcelo Salas, of Chile, is certainly a candidate, a remarkably prolific goalscorer for both club and country. At the moment, rich clubs all over Europe, Manchester United among them, are falling over themselves to prise him from River Plate, of Buenos Aires, who themselves bought him from Univeridad Catolica of Santiago in 1996 after their local rivals. Boca Juniors. had failed in their bid Salas just cannot stop

scoring, except when he's injured, as he was for a hat-trick for his country against Colombia in the World Cup eliminators in a 4-1 victory in Santiago, all of them scored in the first

Ivan Zamorano set up two of them and the big centre forward, now with Internazionale, has been offered in trade for Salas by the Milanese club. Together, the two of them could get goals in France and they might yet be reinforced by the third outstanding Chilean striker, Rozenthal, of Rangers, who has been injured for so long.

Italy, having made such heavy weather of qualification, are talking about bringing in new, fresh. younger players, but they are hardly thick on the eround The best of their **YOURESTERS** is surely the

goalkeeper, Gianluigi Buffon.

precocious (9-vear-old

Angelo Peruzzi stands in

are talking about him as a centre forward and, in such a role, he ran rings around the usually dominant Sol Campbell when Leicester City beat Tottenham Hotspur at Filbert

his way at the moment. but Buffon already looks England have three real

candidates for France among their under-21 players. Rio Ferdinand was, very properly, given his first cap against Cameroon and should surely stay in the team, whether or not Glenn Hoddle goes for broke and risks him as an out-andout libero, in the Franz Beckenbauer mould. Ferdinand is surely a better bet than Gareth Southgate, a less naturally gifted defender with an odd propensity to basic error.

mile Heskey should also be considered. People

I see Heskey as an allrounder an ambiderrous winger as well as centre forward of power, pace and more skill than people give him credit for. Then there is the

Swaniea pli

the struggle f

MILL.

marvellous boy, Liverpool's 17-year-old Michael Owen. with opportunist flair, a superb burst of pace and remarkable self-confidence. How young is too young? In 1958, Brazil did not

hesitate to put in the 17-year-old Pelé, who, initially injured, proceeded to transform the team and score half a dozen goals in the last three games, two of them true masterpieces in a Twenty years later, Diego Maradona, at the same

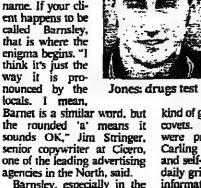
age, could have graced the Argentina team, but his mentor, Cesar Luis Menotti, would not take the risk and the inside-left place went to the "safer" choice, Alonso. Argentina won through

in the end, but though Alonso did not fail, Maradona might have given the team an easier ride to success.

outh Korea, who always seem to qualify and who gave Germany such a fright in the 1994 tournament, have a new hero in their 23-year-old striker, Young Soo Choi; the scorer of eight goals in eight qualifying games, among them all three in the victory against Uzbekhistan, Yoo Sang Chul, who makes the wheels turn in midfield, is another

who could succeed. The United States, who came through so strongly in the end, after earlier wobbles, have rehabilitated a player well known in England. Roy Wegerle, 34, is indeed no youngster, but, revitalised after nine knee operations, he has in turn revitalised America's attack after being discarded for a

couple of years. He scored twice against Canada and has been a new player since he moved from Colorado to the Washington dub, whose success in the American soccer league had much to do with his form. Cheisea. Luton Town and Queens Park Rangers will remember



the rounded 'a' means it sounds OK," Jim Stringer, senior copywriter at Cicero, one of the leading advertising Barnsley, especially in the South Yorkshire tongue, does

agencies in the North, said. sound irrefutably downbeat. The vowel in the first syllable is flat and long, while the second syllable is clipped. Phonetically, it would be spelt: Baarns-li". To aggravate matters, Barnsley is stuck with an

work, death - are played out in a drab, monotonous rhythm. Its 225,000 residents know full well how their town is perceived, and, though they

may claim not to care, they are affronted and hurt. In fact, much of the town's character - warm but weary, stoical but sentimental - is shaped by this eternal "us and them" perspec-

Football has fi-

nally supplied a fingerhold on the Barnet is a similar word, but kind of glamour that Barnsley covets. When Barnsley FC were promoted to the FA Carling Premiership, hope and self-esteem sweetened the daily grind. Barnsley's tourist information centre has seen a 200 per cent increase in inquiries since promotion. The club's success has given us an extra boost," Ann Untisz, a tourism officer, said. "People have heard of us now and we

While most visiting support-

ers will see merely Oakwell, others will choose to spend the will discover that 10 per cent of the borough is in the Peak District National Park and that 70 per cent of it is designated green belt. There are country homes, museums, art galleries, country parks, monuments, walled gardens, steam railways and markets.

Cicero has the county of should Barnsley call, it is ready for the challenge. "I think changing Barnsley's image would have to be done gradually. There is too much history to shrug off in a short

space of time," Stringer said. "It would be no use overdoing it and trying to fool people that Barnsley is something that it isn't. We couldn't say that everything is rosy in the garden when people remember miners scrapping with policemen at the pit gates just

a few years ago." Any marketing sheen placed on Barnsley should not be allowed to camouflage the truth. The place is beset by economic problems and a new report has revealed that it is the poorest town in Britain. A glimpse through the local



The football club has done much to to ameliorate the town's sullied image, both through its success and its enterprising style of play, but this week it was drawn into ignominy when Dean Jones, a 20-year-old reserve team player, failed a drug test. He has the woeful distinction of being

the first player at a Premier ship club to do so Jones, who was born in Barnsley and still lives in the town, tested positive for ampheramine and could face a played for the rst team, or indeed been in a first-team squad. In recent weeks he has also struggled to make the reserves. No matter: the incident has brought shame on the club. "He was tested on a Monday morning

and the feeling locally is that he had taken something over the weekend, per haps on a Saturday night and it was still in his system," an insider said. It is widely accepted that

each generation has its own particular palate for the use of intoxicants and Jones, if his drug-taking is proved to be solely recreational, is far from atypical. The difference is that he is a professional footballer with Barnsley FC, and Barnsley, the town and the club, can do without yet another slur on its good name, however it is

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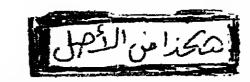
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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Swiss role puts Spurs in a jam

spur announced this week that George Gra-ham or Glenn Hoddle or Barbara Windsor was coming to take over at White Hart Lane, they might have been saved. As it is, they are as doorned as the Spice Girls, and with much the same leadership problems. The tetchy, dreary and dry appointment of "Hans" Christian Gross this week is the latest tiny shift from a club that specialises in begrudging little changes, unaware that we live in the age of Big Gestures and that Tottenham and their bored supporters might only come back to life with a bomb under them.

Spurs used to be such a jazzy side too. But there they go, blindly leaping aboard the borrowed ideology that a sober and serious continental "technician" will come in and make them look intense and interesting. How they found someone less charismatic than Gerry Francis beggars belief, but this new po-face is shaping up to steal even Arsene Wenger's killjoy crown, and believe me, whatever small on-field benefits Wenger has so far brought to Highbury are a high price to pay for the man being such an out-and-out drag. Tottenham are lost. They have

been lost for ages and will remain lost. They are confusing monolith-ic insecurity and bullshit inscruta-bility with Manchester United's

Gazza ruins punchline

AFTER sharing a soothing cold drink with Paul Gascoigne last Sunday, I wave him off the airport sobbing into a handkerchief and imploring him not to be a stranger. "Make some time for yourself, Pauli" I say. "Go nuts and get sent off." I say. "Get yourself a nice relaxing ban." I say. That's the trouble with footballers. No sense of humour.

Tottenham supporters - famous for their boot-licking timidity will surely not take one more example of their board's bloody-mindedness. All clubs think deep down that their supporters are nosy outsiders who, unfortunately, are "the market", but Spurs have begun to make Buck House look like Liberty Hall. Talk about Mother Knows Best.

First, Gerry Francis. When did it finally sink in at boardroom level that it wasn't happening for him? I know he will whip out the statistics book to prove otherwise, but football clubs do not live in statistics books. They are experienced in the hearts, eyes and wallets of their supporters. Alto-gether now the difference between staff and supporters at a club is that supporters pay to get in and staff are paid to come in. Puts a real slant on a match, that! So when supporters say bugger off to a manager — or player, come to that — it isn't meant as a subtle flagging to the director's box of some possible future discontent. It means bugger off. Now, Respect it.

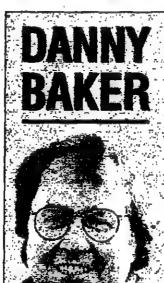
There's no more empty phrase in football than when a belea-guered boss, after being boosed by the crowd, puffs himself up and says: They are entitled to their opinion but I'm not a quitter." As though there's some deeper appreciation of football that supporters ciation of football that supporters aren't quite up to speed with. "Not a quitter?" Be a quitter! Quit! You've had a go, it tell flat, walk away. Stoic intransigence is not necessarily noble. Sometimes you're simply being a berk.

This stubborn loftiness of the modern big-time British manager is all Alex Ferguson's fault. For, as you are never allowed to forget

you are never allowed to forget, Fergie, eventually got it right. Now every two-bob, thick-ear, expro in a hot seat is given licence to drive a club into the sea because, after all, didn't it take Fergie a long time to "get it right"? Well, you know what? I don't think Fergie did "get it right."



November 15, 1994. The warning signs are already in evidence for the new Tottenham manager



I reckon he has very little idea of what he was doing so different preand post that dramatic 6-2 victory at Arsenal in 1990 that got the present juggernaut rolling. Sud-denly his patchy side got a little air under its wings and if it made him look like a master genius who had it all mapped out. Fie's undoubted-

a great manager but only he knows the amount of smoke, mirrors, PR and sleight of hand that brings you to such a place.

And now we have the dour Christian Gross, late of Grasshopper, and, unless i'm thinking about someone else entirely, former manager of the excellent Alpine Horn Swiss restaurant in London's noisy Wardour Street. His first directive towards the White Hart Lane faithful is that discipline, punctuality and grooming will count for everything at his version of Spurs. They maybe on their way down but they will go down in an orderly fashion, on time and wearing sober blazers with slacks.

So here goes. I hereby predict that this man's reign at Tottenham will be one of the most disruptive, disastrous and embarrassing peri-ods in its history. Alan Sugar will blame disruptive outside elements and point out that Herr Gross was a great manager who should have been given time like Alex Ferguson

... although, yes, on reflection, the insistance upon walking canes and monocles was a publicity fiasco. As per usual, the supporters will have seen this coming and, wouldn't it be nice if, just this once, somebody emerged from the ivory tower and said to them: "You know, you told us we were going wrong a year ago

to Scotland.

he has never gone out of

position of assistant manager

acumen is viewed as a signifi-

cant element in the achieve-

Pittodrie, of course, the refine-

be the first objective. Aberdeen

fashion.

and we never listened. Well, we were wrong. We apologise. Here's

your money back. Sorry."

Instead, it will be a curt press release thanking Mr Big for taking the team into the Dr Marten's League and a brief welcome to our new coach ... Graeme Souness, whose door, don't forget, will always be open ...

AND still they come. Those who insist a goal may be scored direct from a kick-off. Whatever obscure regulations and expert opinions these pecu-liar folk produce, it is clear that they are labouring under some potty illusion that is probably the result of an old newspaper April Fool story. I know a man who swore he once saw a bubble-car being dragged along by a large and powerful rat which had gripped the vehicle by the

number plate. The rat, it seems, wanted to take the car to its "nest". It was only after several years of circulating this nonsensical vision that he realised that he had seen the image in an old Betty Boop cartoon, and had later convinced himself that he had lived through such an experience. Similarly, West Ham United supporters tell me that they once won the League.

Bow tie collars rattle market

AFTER my story two weeks a dog collar which had been nailed on to the reverse side — the collar not needed elsewhere since the lot of correspondence regarding similarly poor merchandise from all sorts of different clubs. However, appalling though the standard of many official products may be, the ultimate tale of football memorabilia concerns The Home Made Wooden Bow Tie of Dundee United.

A caller to the radio show told me that when he was a young lad many years ago he was just about the most fanatical supporter Dundee United had. One year, when his birthday rolled around, his father asked him if he wanted a scarf or bobble hat that might identify him as a loyal fan wherever he went. Two pop's surprise, the boy asked for a football bow rie. Now, whereas many a father might have explained that there is no such thing as a football bow tie, this one simply rolled up his sleeves, spit on his hands and disappeared into the workshop. He emerged on birthday morning with A Football Bow Tie. It was made out of plywood, roughly two feet from side to side, painted in the club colours — orange and black - with the word United spanning its length in white.

It turned out that the piece could be worn in the traditional bow rie manner by the simple fastening of

family pet had been run over some months previously. This he did at the very next home game collecting, as he put it, "quite a few complimentary notices." However, this notoriety came at a price. For quite early on it became apparent that the knot part of the bow tie was deceptively bulbous and refused to allow his chin to settle on it with any comfort.

After much thought and considering the thing from all angles, his father headed once more for the workshop, emerging with the bow tie intact but now, instead of the dog collar arrangement, it was nailed to the end of a long broom handle. Still clearly a bow tie, but no longer a practical one. The caller pursed with pride as he recalled how the very next week he entered the ground holding aloft the two-foot plywood bow tie like a Roman Centurion at the head of his legion — passing those who boasted mere rosettes and rattles with a superior stride. Sadly, the story ends on a downbeat tone because when I inquired where the Home Made Wooden Bow Tie of Dundee United is today, he replied with the phrase that represents the constant sorrow of grown men everywhere: "I think my mother

Pleat's credit notes lose their currency

STOP PRESS! As I write this, the rumour of David Pleat's wooing to Tottenham looks like it might become fact. It's actually touching the way football fans are suckers for believing that when old favourites return, so will old triumphs, but as anyone who went to see the Steely Dan reunion tour last year will know, even the mightiest turns should never go home. Besides, shouldn't managers fresh from disastrous spells at big clubs have to sit some kind of exam or at least spend some time in a cell as penance for messing everyone about? Pleat maybe a superb chap and a party animal

but is anyone seriously denying that his track record is smelling a bit gamey? He certainly has his powerful friends. I couldn't believe it when it was suggested both in print and on television that Sheffield Wednesday's 5-0 win the week after Pleat's fingernails were finally prised from the door frame was proof that he was on the verge of getting it right. Duh? They're bottom, he *leaves*, they win 5-0. He gets credit. Using that logic, Pete Best was responsible for Sergeant

☐ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday from 5.30pm.

Swansea's plight typifies the struggle for survival

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

AS THE FA Carling Premier-ship rolls relentlessly on, counting its cash in millions, many in the Nationwide League are struggling to make ends meet. The difficulties of Swansea City, Oxford United and Scarborough are genuine, not imagined. Of the three, Swansea

appear in the most imminent danger. Their third division fixture against Chester City at the Vetch Field this afternoon was called off yesterday because safety work had not been carried out. They were given a deadline of noon today by the city's safety of sports grounds committee, but realised they would not meet it. Swansea have to carry out

repairs to a back-up electricity generator, update the internal radio network at the ground and remove loose masonry from under the North Bank. "This work must be done for supporters to be admitted to the ground." John Spence, chairman of the safety council, said. The League is to conduct

Oxford's predicament involves finance or, rather, the lack of it. Denis Smith, the manager, has been told to prune his first division squad from 25 to possibly 21 - all the players were put up for sale earlier this week - and the



club is only keeping afloat because its main creditors are behaving "co-operatively". Several backroom staff are expected to lose their jobs. At Scarborough, John Rus-

sell, the chairman, has threatened to resign if the attendance for the game against Rotherham United today does not exceed 4.000. "I'm asking the people of Scarborough to please come and support us," Russell said.



Dowie: Portsmouth target

"We've been through a lot in the last few years and we've got to see some encouragement from our supporters. If we don't, this will be a

Judgment Day."

Scarborough are eighth in the third division but attracted only 1,408 spectators to watch their 3-2 victory over Swansea in midweek. "Rotherham is a derby match and we want to see 4.000 farts," Russell said. "If we don't get that response,

then I can't carry on." Elsewhere, business was less grim yesterday. Swindon Town completed the signing of George Ndah, 22, the gangly Crystal Palace striker, for £500,000. He will make his debut against Middlesbrough this afternoon, replacing Chris Hay, Swindon's 13-goal lead-

ing scorer, who is suspended. Bruce Rioch, the former assistant manager of Queens Park Rangers, has turned down an approach from Northern Ireland to succeed Bryan Hamilton, who was dismissed last month.

Meanwhile, Iain Dowie, the Northern Ireland and West Ham United striker, is considering a move to Portsmouth, the struggling first division club. Portsmouth have made an offer of £250,000. "Pompey are a great club with lots of tradition," Dowie said. "I need first-team football so a move would be attractive."

| Nicholson | cleared in drug case

SHANE NICHOLSON, the West Bromwich Albion defender, was yesterday cleared of deliberately taking an amphetamine when he called a witness, who admitted slipping the drug into the player's drink for a prank (John Goodbody writes).

However, the Football Association warned Nicholson of the stupidity of spending time in bars frequented by drug users". The witness, who was not named, now faces possible criminal charges for possessing the illegal substance.

A three-man FA disciplinary commission found Nicholson, a full back at the Nationwide League first division club, guilty of a technical breach of the FA's drugs code, but not guilty of wilful misconduct. Nicholson provided the urine sample at the West Bromwich training ground on October 13.

Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said: "The witness told the commission that he was shocked when he heard that Nicholson had subsequently failed a drugs test, so he contacted the player and agreed to admit to his actions before the commission. The witness made the admission despite being warned that his actions could constitute a criminal offence and it was the FA's policy to report such matters."

Miller takes over at Aberdeen VICTORIES have been scarce By KEVIN McCarra for Aberdeen, but they did at

and play Dunfermline Athlet-ic at East End Park this least win one significant battle yesterday. Alex Miller was appointed as manager at Pittodrie after the club had alternoon. There may be a few advanovercome resistance from Coventry City, where he was tages in the dismal circumstances, since they relieve

assistant to Gordon Strachan. Miller of some of the traditional burdens placed upon an Miller had no contract with the English club and could not Aberdeen manager by the supporters of the club who, be prevented from returning understandably, are apt to refer to the high achievements Bryan Richardson, the chairman of Coventry, had of the 1980s.

thought that Miller could be For the time being, at least, Miller will be applauded if he persuaded to accept an offer to remain at Highfield Road. only leads the club as far as He spoke at great length and the security of a mid-table from the heart, but the lure of position, and reservations the Aberdeen job was 100 great," Miller said. about the manager's past will also be suppressed. Miller, at Miller was manager of Hi-Hibernian, was often accused of mistaking sterility for prubernian until September 1996, having spent ten years in the dence and creating a team post, but then resigned. His whose inhibitions thwarted its decision to leave Easter Road was influenced, in part, by the potential.

Jim Leighton, the goalkeepantipathy of supporters who er who was signed by him for may simply have tired of him. Hibernian and now plays for In coaching circles, however, Aberdeen, disagrees with that viewpoint and points out that Miller tended to buy attacking He will continue to hold the players. Admirers of the manager will also claim that of Scotland and his tactical limited funds at Easter Road meant that the newcomers were not good enough to alter the character of the team. ments of the national team. At

Funds tend to be available ments of strategy may not be at Aberdeen and Roy Aitken, regarded as a priority at Miller's predecessor who was sacked two weeks ago, spent present and the attainment of ordinary, competent form will £2 million in the close season alone. This is the biggest club are bottom of the Bell's Scot-I have ever managed, make no tish League premier division mistake about that," said Miller. He is to attend today's game, but Keith Burkinshaw, Aberdeen's director of football, will still be in charge of the side this afternoon.

No other premier division club is in quite so difficult a position as Aberdeen, but anxieties are widespread nonetheless. Even the Old Firm fret. Rangers will be

they play Motherwell at Fir Park. Marc Rieper. Alan Stubbs and Craig Burley will be missing from the Celtic side that plays Dundee United. Heart of Midlothian, the

without Brian Laudrup, Rino

Gattuso, Gordon Durie and

Paul Gascoigne, who begins a

five-match suspension, when

leaders in the premier divi-sion, meet Kilmarnock at Tynecastle tomorrow.



Coz deal breaks new ground at Kennel-worth Road

IT'S a dog's life at Luton Town — usual story: losing team, crowd unrest, etc - but Coz Kohler is happier than most. Coz is the alsatian-border collie cross owned by David Kohler, the Luton chairman. and has recently secured himself personal sponsorship. The deal was done by Alan Corkhill, the managing director of a local printing firm, and includes Coz's photograph, proudly wearing a Luton shirt, in the matchday programme.

Corkhill used to support Kim Grant, the former Luton striker, who is now with Millwall. "Unfortunately. Kim wasn't one of the most popular players," he said. "so this time, I thought I'd go for the most likeable living creature at the club. which apparently is Coz." Corkhill reckons that his canine friend could "he'd bring an extra pair of legs"—or add brine to the midfield.

Central TV's show, Goals Extra, appears at 5.05pm on Saturdays, not. help out Luton's ailing defence -

Jamaica in-crowd

Many a player from the FA Carling Premiership and Nationwide League is casting an envious glance in the direction of Jamaica, who have reached the World Cup finals for the first time. Messrs Hall, Simpson, Burton and Earle are now bound for France, having rediscovered their Jamaican roots, and perhaps Linvoy Primus, the Reading central defender, will be joining them. Primus is qualified on two counts: his mother was born on the Caribbean island and he once are curried goat, rice and peas as a pre-match meal. "I tried it for a while but I'm back on the pasta now," he said.

Late kick-off

appears at 5.05pm on Saturdays, not .



long after the matches finish, and so has to be edited as the games are going on. Midlands clubs are asked to provide teamsheets, so that the editors can identify the players by their numbers, and most comply with haste. Not so Birmingham City when Norwich City visited St Andrew's. Central eventually received a teamsheet by fax - at 11.15am on Monday, accompanied by the note: "Sorry, bit late."

There, there Stan

Lord Taylor of Warwick, who last year became the first black Tory peer, apparently likens his newly-arrived son, Mark, to Stan Collymore, the Aston Villa striker. "He looks a bit like Stan," Lord Taylor, a Villa fanatic, said. Perhaps Stan resembles Mark, too - he sleeps a lot, whinges and needs constant attention. One day, just maybe, he will also grow up.

Extra special

Station Sports, a Sunday league side from Southampton, were locked at 2-2 against Connaught Arms in their Hampshire Junior A Cup secondround tie. Little could separate the sides until extra time, when Sports amassed ten goals without reply. "We scored twice in the first minute and didn't look back." Phil Janes, the for singing.

Sports manager, said "Everything seemed to go in, it was amazing."

Pet hates

It's a dog's life at Barnsley, too - at least for Eric Tinkler, the South African. "It's not the football that is getting to me," he said. "It's the fact that, due to the archaic quarantine laws in this country. I have to travel miles to visit my pet dog. This is going to go on for another five months. It's crazy. Tinkler added for good measure: "Don't get me wrong. Barnsley seems like a nice place and the people are great, too. It's just that the town seems so dead."

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Two Irish fans in Brussels last weekend, for Ireland's World Cur play-off against Belgium, were thrown out of the James Joyce bar -

هكذا من رلامهل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY





BLACKBURN ROVERS CHELSEA Today, 3.0



When Chelsea signed Frank Leboeuf. Roud Gullit was alerted to his transfer market success with a one-sen-

tence phone call. "We've got the beef," he was rold. Have they, really? Gullit has crafted an exciting and certainly fashionable team, but still seems to have incorporated that old Chelsea failing, a vulnerability away from home, especially on trips oop north. One remembers their recent visit to Bolton Wanderers. when they dominated ... but

Blackburn will not be an inviting place, either. Apart from the weather. Roy Hodgson has fashioned a team both creative and destructive and he still harbours vague thoughts of the championship. To win it, the Lancashire side must beat imposters such as their southern

visitors. The home cause is not helped by continuing injury to Hendry. who was forced to miss the because of a knee ligament problem. Hodgson had hoped that it would have cleared by now, but it seems the defender will not train for at least another. two weeks. In the meantime, the

manager will busy himself in an attempt to persuade Chris Sutton to sign a new, improved five-year contract worth in excess of £2.5 million.

Gullit has no such problems and even has important players returning from injury, with Duberry. Le Saux and Paul Hughes all training with the first-team squad this week -"I'm knackered, it was an incredibly hard first training session after my injury." Le Saux said with commendable honesty. He will not be ready in time for a return to his former club, but has the brace on his broken arm removed next week and should then be cleared to play.

The Dutchman is a canny manager. As previously one of the boys, he could hardly have waded into the dressing-room with a big stick. Instead, he has cleverly rotated his squad to introduce the fear factor that every manager ultimately requires. It has worked well, but the lack of continuity has not helped on those visits up

For this one, Gullit will put his faith in an Italian forward line to avoid the embarrassment suffered at Bolton. "That was not good enough. If we are to challenge for trophies this season, we cannot afford to be so generous to the opposition by refusing to take so many chances," he said.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable 44-2): T Flowers — J Fierma, S Henchoz, T Pederson, G Croff — S Replay, T Sharwood, W McJuntay, G Floroff — C Sutton + Gallacher CHELSEA (probable, 44-2): E De Geey — F Smolan, F Leboeul S Clarke A Myers — D Was, R of Mattee, E Newton, D Potresou — G Zola, G Valli Reference, S Lodge

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, BBC1 10.50pm, extended highlights.

PREDICTION: Chelsea to impress, but lose, a la swinging Sixties



Mr Ronderful: The new Wednesday manager realises he may have made another verbal slip

Photograph: John Giles/PA

Brian Glanville

The Wimbledon

faithful can start

practising their

but I'd manae

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4 CHELSES

5. LEEDS L'ED

6. LIVERPOOL

8. DERE 4 00.

9. WIMELEDON

10. NEWCASTE COLD

11. COVERTER TO

14. WEST HAM --

15. ASTON VILLE 13

17. EVERTOR --

16. TOTTE HALLY - Table 15

18. BOLTON WANDERESS.

19. SHEFFIELD AFECTAR SOLA

7. LEICES TO TOTAL

SUBLACKEUR WIR CARE ARE LE

THE BIG IDEA

For the benefit of any Sheffield Wednesday players who have strug-gled this week with the new boss's unique use of the English language, we have compiled this handy guide to some phrases that may crop up in

 Early doors. Anytime between the kick off and the

2. For fun. Making your task look easy.

3. Big ugly whip.
A cross curling "wickedly" away from the goalkeeper.

In the mixer. A threatening area in which to put your pass/cross/intended shot.

5, Pull the trigger. The right time to shoot

6. The back stick. The far post.

7. Nice bright feet. To dribble with dazzling effect.

A rather good pass.

9. Hell of a knock. See above, but over a longer

10. The big fella.

Any tall player in the opposing team.

11. Stick or bust Sony, we don't know what he's talking about here, either.

Compiled by Richard Whitehead





SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY ARSENAL Today, 3.0



Oliver Holt From Kettering to West Bromwich Albion, from Manchester United to Aston Villa and

Coventry City and now back for a second spell at Hillsborough, Ron Atkinson has done the rounds. Today, he starts on the latest stage of his colourful career, trying to lift Sheffield Wednesday out of the relegation zone with victory over Arsenal, second in the FA Carling Premiership.

He inherits a host of prob-Jems. His new team is painfully short of confidence, he has two lavishly talented but illdisciplined Italians in Benito Carbone and Paolo di Canio. a Frenchman, Patrick Blondeau, who is having problems settling in Yorkshire and, perhaps most significantly. only a short time in which to turn it all around.

Atkinson, so adept at fashioning fine attacking sides. has a wholly different task here. The attack is already in place — it is a midfield and defence that conceded seven goals to Blackburn Rovers and six to Manchester United that has to be shored up and Atkinson will have to move quickly to do it.

The new manager is fortunate that he will be facing an Arsenal side considerably below full strength, even if it has been buoyed by its victory over United at Highbury a fortnight ago. Bergkamp. Petit and Bould, the spine of the Arsenal team, will be missing through suspension as the north London side's disciplinary failings start to bite, while Vicira is still ruled out with a knee injury. After his own concerns that he has overcommitted himself to charity work and commercial activity. the pressure will be firmly on Wright to start scoring again after what, for him, is a goal drought, lasting all of four

The key may be how Arsenal cope with a Wednesday attack revitalised by Arkinson's instructions. Their glut of suspensions and injuries coupled with Wednesday's determination to impress their new manager could cause an upset at Hillsborough and get Big Ron off to a flier.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (44.2): 1. Progress — P Blandon, J Marcotte () Napret 1 trees — III Perforage P Bull J Marcott, P to Carlo — A Booth (5) Chipore
ARSENAL MA Dr.D. Seeman — L.B. (pr. G.
German): A Ademic N. Whiteburn — A
Mendez, R. Padua D. Platt. S. Hughal. — M.
Overmaci. 194 ph.
Referee 4. 8 a.go.

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, extended highlights. **PREDICTION:** Wednesday revival to begin with a win



Referee: S Lodge

was textbook Savo. First, he tells a Yugoslav newspaper that he wants to play in Italy (have to

can't read Serbo-Croat), then Napoli say "We're in Italy, he must mean us" and make a £4.5 million bid. Great run, perfect cross, an open goal, surely. No. Savo says: "No one has contacted me from Napoli and I don't want to go there." Chance gone. Er, no. Talks, as they say, are due to take place, so we leave Savo Milosevic chasing a bobbling ball around a Villa Park nenalty area, trying to turn a tap-in into a 30-yard

thunderbolt. It was ever thus. If those talks do take place and

"Reggae Boyz", but Kingston is

many miles from Derby and

Dean Burton can expect to deco-

rate the substitutes' bench this

Jim Smith, the Derby County

progress that supporters

manager, believes that it is a sign

should be unhappy with a return

of five points from the last five FA

Carling Premiership games, each

against stiff opposition. The same

fixtures realised just two points

last season and Smith is right to

warn that development can only

having spent the Nineties yo-

voing between the divisions, the

paths of Leicester City and Bolton

Wanderers cross for only the

second season in the decade -

and few would want their money

Bolton, with only one League

win and nine goals since the

opening day of the season, are

clearly in the greater danger, the

team that stormed the Nation-

wide League first division once

again finding their deficiencies

ruthlessly exposed at the higher

temperatures of the North East.

Hence his keenness to make his

first appearance for Newcastle

United today since October I and,

more importantly, to play against

Barcelona in the European Cup

Bearing in mind the length of

Asprilla's absence with a groin

injury and the impending visit to

Spain. Kenny Dalglish, the

Newcastle manager, is deliberat-

ing over whether to leave him on

the substitutes' bench for much of

the match against Southampton.

next Wednesday.

Ivo Tennant

Faustino Asprilla

has declared that

he has no inten-

tions of remain-

ing inactive in

what he perceives

to be the freezing

on a repeat fixture in 1998.

Keith Pike

It is the novelty

value of this meet-

ing rather than its

potential for rich-

es that will draw

the fans to Filbert

Street. The clubs

afternoon.

Richard Hobson

He might have

helped Jamaica to

the World Cup

finals last week-

end, he might

even be the most

revered of the





Today, 3.0

ASTON VILLA EVERTON

Milosevic does move on, then perhaps today will be Savo's swansong at Aston Villa. With Yorke a possible absentee, since Trinidad and Tobago are playin Jamaica tomorrow, and Bosnich (on World Cup duty with Australia). Southgate (injured ankle)

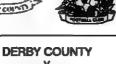
and Taylor (suspended) definite non-starters, Villa will make changes, Oakes taking over in goal and Ehiogu. Draper and Collymore, back in training after a nose operation, standing by. Everton will be without Watson

in defence, who has a sore hamstring, but Barmby is back after a month out with groin trouble. They have not won away from home in 11 months. There may be few better opportunities. ASTON VILLA (possible, 35-C): M Onless—U Brogu, S Staurrion, R Someca—G Charles, F Neton: M Draper, S Grayzon A Whight—S Collymore, S Mideared.

EVERTION (possible, 4-3-1-2): N Southef—E Barret S Bác. C Stort, A Harchoffle—D Widgarson, G Spoed, J Oales—N Barrithy—D Catamarten. D Ferrouson

■ TELEVISION: Match of the Day, goal highlights.





be gradual. The manner of defeat at Leeds United, when they squandered a three-goal lead, followed by a first loss at Pride Pack, against Newcastle United in midweek, demonstrated naivety in contrasting situations. They badly miss Stimuc in defence.

COVENTRY CITY

Today, 3.0

while Hunt could lose his place to Solis, Trollope or Asanovic.

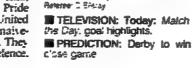
PREDICTION: Draw.

Coventry City have scored in only one of six league away fixtures and face competition from Newcastle and Tottenham Hotspur for Viorel Moldovan after making a 13 million bid to Grasshopper Zurich for the Romania striker. Dublin is the most probable source of a goal this afternoon.

DERBY COUNTY (possible 3-4-1-2) M Poort — G Rosert, 2 Laursen, C Dart, — S Erand, J hum 1 Contier, C Possible — F Baund — P Annu per, C Stundige COVENTY CITY (possible, 4-4-2) S Gyradine — F Minton — S State G Breen D Burture — P City — P Whoms, G McAllater, M Hall — D Cub — P Whoms, G McAllater, M Hall — D Cub — D Humpton

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights.

PREDICTION: Derby to win a





LEICESTER CITY BOLTON WANDERERS Today, 3.0 (sold out)

level. In Thompson, they have one of the most promising midfield players in the FA Carling Premiership: in Fish, a centre half of undoubted class - but while Blake continues his profligate ways in attack and while ili discipline knaws away at Colin

NEWCASTLE UNITED

SOUTHAMPTON

Today, 3.0 (sold cut)

Rush is injured, as are Barton

and Beresford, so Tomasson may

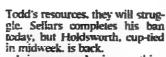
be parmered in attack again by Barnes. Pearce will have a late

Southampton also have their

injury problems - Lundekvam is

doubtful - although Hirst and

funes test.



Leicester are also in something of a slump and today they must do without the suspended Heskey and, probably, Walsh, "We have slipped recently," Elliott, their new Scotland defender, admitted, A goifing break in Ireland should have re-charged the squad's batteries enough to secure victory.

UE/CESTER CITY proceeds 3-5-21 K Kote — 6 Port M Brott / Marstell — P Kaamak, G Partor M Lemon M ICSE, S Goppy — S Dongs 6 Fester BOLTON WASDERS (protable 1-4-3 k Section — 3 Beattron, M. Pich, A. Todd, M. Janick — 1 Perton, Privanders, A. Phampson - Beattery, — 71 Baks, D holdsworth

■ TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Cay goal highlights PREDICTION: Home win

Richardson are expected to be fit

enough to play. Surprisingly, Ostenstad, the 25-year-old from

Nerway who somed 15 goals last

season, could be included. He

played for 45 minutes in a reserve

match at Luton Town in midweek

and has recovered sufficiently

after surgery on an ankle. It was

teared that he would not be fit for

any kind of football before

NEWWASTLE UNITED possible 4-1-11 S Horm — S Waston, A Finance, P Abort, S Flatter — Gristone Riles O Samp J Burker — C Tomussia — P Apprila

SOUTHERSPION (posses): 4-3 (-2) P Janes — 2 Dodg M. Markou, D. Speeding, F. Sona, — C. Partie, M. P. Chardon, M. Oskiy, — M. Le Picher, — B. Shout, B. Castridan, M. Carlot, — M. Le Picher, — C. Strong, B. Castridan, M. C. Sona, M. C. Strong, M. C. Strong, B. C. Str

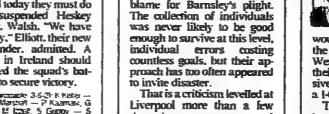
TELEVISION: Today: Match of

■ PREDICTION: Newcastle to win

the Day, extended highlights.

Christmas.

Rizzeroe D Gazarther



times in recent seasons and their uncertain start to the season has left them with no margin for error against teams as vulnerable as today's visitors if they are to mount a championship challenge. Even without Ince, who starts a three-match suspension, and Fowler, who continues his, they should have little difficulty despatching Wil-

LINERPOOL (princele, 4-4-2): Dilames — Hilanes Bilvarme, Dilames, Sigorcopa — Pilengra J. Februargo, O Leonitadean, Silecturaran — Microe, Bingde, BARNSLEY (probable, 3-5-2): Dilactop — Alford, And Zeeva, Pishtal — Alvazan, Milliandor, N. Haddem Di Sreddah J Gasanot — Jirkarde, A Liddel Perione, 1990es Başanoc — JiHan Referee, JiWeser

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights. PREDICTION: Barnsley to the slaughter --- again.

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports



LIVERPOOL

BARNSLEY

Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Matt

see

ther

made:

son. Barnsley manager, declared

after his side's 4-1 thrashing at

Southampton in their last FA

Carling Premiership fixture.

"I am sick of coming in after

games and trying to explain another heavy defeat, so it is

time the players took some responsibility. If we are going to go down, it must be with a

With that unexpected out-

burst, Wilson dropped the

nice guy approach and turned

to Mr Nasty. Whether his

team follow suit will be one of

the principle themes at

Anfield today. It would appear

that they have little choice.

Like Swindon Town and Bol-

ton Wanderers before them.

Barnsley have attempted to

blend into the elite by talking

the same language of attractive, passing football. They should have realised that at

least half the Premiership

long since gave up such pre

tensions and survive on solid

castigate his players for their

woeful showing at The Dell,

he too must take some of the

While Wilson was right to

organisation and grit.

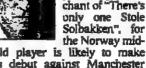
fight, not a whimper."

Danny

Dickinson

"Now we'll

what



field player is likely to make his debut against Manchester United today with hopes that he can compensate for the severe loss of his compatriot, Oyvind Leonhardsen.

Wimbledon have never been afraid of United, less still now after the champions lost their auta of invincibility at Highbury last time out - and that against an Arsenal team without Dennis Bergkamp. Pallister's chronic back injury keeps him out of a game that could expose United's defence to Wimbledon's famous aerial bombardment. Last season, United ramped through the opening day league game 3-0 with David Beckham scoring that astonishing goal from the halfway line. Wimbledon took revenge in the FA Cup, drawing at Old Trafford, winning the

replay at Selhurst Park. They will have to keep a close eye on Scholes, the hero of England's win against Cameroon last weekend, who will doubtless be firing on all cylinders on the verge of his threematch suspension. Cole will surely be more effective than he was at Highbury, Schmeichel is unlikely to look as vulnerable as he did there and Sheringham, who scored twice against

Arsenal before going off, is fit. Cole has just been given a long new contract and this will no doubt help his confidence, but





WIMBLEDON MANCHESTER UNITED Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Solskjaer yet another Norwe-gian, surely deserves a regular place and will no doubt win it if Cole reverts to his old tendency to miss good chances.

This week has seen Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, involved in yet another damage limitation exercise, defending Jones and Ceri Hughes after both were allegedly involved in violent episodes off the field - yet it remains true that on it, Wimbledon have cleaned up their act. Under Kinnear, they have enough football in their team to eschew the old style of up and under and aerial attack is only one of their several alternatives. Ekoku is out and Marcus Gayle is playing up front with Cort. McAllister and Kimble await fitness tests before the team is confirmed.

WMMBLEDON (probable, 4-4-2): N Suleven —
K Currengherr, C Perry, D Blackwest, A Kimble
— M Ardley, S Solbeithen, V Jones, R Earle
— M Gayle, C Cort.
MANCHESTER - UNITED (4-4-2): P
Schmeichel — G Neville, R Johnsen, H Berg, P
Neville — D Backhern, N Burt, P Scholes, R
Glogs — A Cole, E Sheringhern. ex S Dunn.

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights. PREDICTION: A draw.



Oliver Holt Last season perhaps. most would have assumed that Leeds United. the masters of solid defence.

would have attempted to nullify the traditional attacking brio of West Ham, taken advantage of their equally traditional defen-sive frailty and sneaked off with a I-O win. Not any more. Twice this season, Leeds have

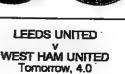
been involved in near-classic 4-3 victories, first with a topsy-turvy win over a free-scoring Blackburn Rovers side at Ewood Park in September and then, a fortnight ago, with their bravura comeback from three goals down against Jim Smith's resurgent Derby County team. That win, on top of a recent

run of impressive form, signalled that Leeds seem to have a genuine chance of qualifying for Europe this season and that the strictures of George Graham are beginning to kick in after the traumatic period of dour. dull play that marked his arrival at Elland Road. One of the secrets of his

success this season appears to be that he has been able to keep a remarkably settled side - he has only used 14 outfield players compared to, say, the 25 chosen by Southampton - and the increasing familiarity has bred confidence in the chosen play-

Tomorrow. Leeds will be without Harry Kewell, on duty today for Terry Venables' Socceroos in the World Cup qualifying play-off against Iran, tinue winning streak,





which may give Hasselbaink, whose season started so promisingly with a goal against Arsenal, a chance to win back his first-team place.

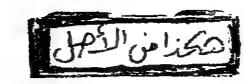
However, West Harrare also a vastly improved side since the last campaign. Hartson, in particular, is in fine form, but they have missed the presence of Kitson alongside him and the recent on-pitch sparring between Moncur and Berkovic appeared to suggest that team spirit was beginning to fray at the edges. With Ferdinand keen to press his England claims in front of the BSkyB cameras at the heart of a defence that is no longer a soft touch, this should be a highquality game. In their present incarnation. Leeds should just have the edge.

LEEDS UNITED (3-6-2): N Martyn — G Halle L Radsbe, D Wetheral — G Kelly, D Hoplon, L Bowyer, A Ribetro, D Robenson — R Wallace, J Hasselbertk, J Hasseveren, West HAM United (3-5-2): C Forest — 1 Pearce, R Ferdinand, D Unaworth — 1 Broacker, F Lampard, J Monour, A Impey — E Bertions — J Hartson, S Abou.

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 3pm. ■ PREDICTION: Leeds to con-

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THE BIG IDEA the state of the s

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

It's a crazy existence, but I'd like to be a manager one day

few weeks. I have been that forced Francis and David Pleat into such terrible positions. any footballer would want to be a at Tottenham Hotspur and Shefmanager. When one as well respected as Gerry Francis departs in the manner he did, it certainly begs the question.

The answer, of course, is that football is in the blood, and no matter how much pressure there is, players will always look to continue their career in the sport. There is something intoxicating about the people, the day-to-day contact and the "feel" of a club.

I don't think many players could define why they would want to face the strain of management, apart from the need to keep earning, of course, but there is definitely something addictive about the football business.

Of course, most players who go into coaching, believe that they will

field Wednesday respectively. They have to believe that success will make their jobs impregnable
the sort of situation that Alex Ferguson has worked hard to achieve.

I would consider becoming a manager. Football is my life, and I know, even now, that I would find it attractive to stay in the game in any capacity. But I have to say that it becomes less attractive every year. These days, if you lose a few games, you are under pressure, and there is an intense concentration on a manager's every decision. every result.

Gerry Francis commanded great respect from the Tottenham players, and they are very sad to see him go. But he had a bit of a

that forced Francis and David In the end, I think he had had enough. He was subjected to unfair pressures, considering the season is barely two months old, and many of his players were injured.

Even at Liverpool, our manager has had to endure all sorts of nonsense. Roy Evans has created a new team at Anfield, and it has taken time to bed all the new players in. We have had some poor results, true, but we have also played quite well in some games, and we are in a reasonable position in the FA Carling Premiership. The manager has the respect of his players, and yet plenty of people criticise him every time we have a reverse.

As I say, why bother? Still, even Gerry's sad exit has not put me off going into management one day— and I bet it hasn't put Gerry off,



either. He is a top-class coach and I'm sure he will quickly resurface. Just look at Ron Atkinson. He is back again at 58, and I'm certain he is loving every minute of it. Ron has no need to put up with some of the hassles he has faced, but he loves the game. It is that love that drives him on, just as it does so many football men.

Il Cup has its merits
I KNOW that the Coca-Cola Cup has been the subject of much criticism recently, but our match against Grimsby Town offered a tion. People say it has little meaning, but try telling that to the Grimsby and Liverpool lans. Whenever a smaller team gets a crack at higher-placed opponents, there is plenty of excitement.

Liverpool have always taken the competition seriously. We have fielded our strongest side in every game, and we will continue to do that. The gaffer offered the lads who had been on England duty a rest on Tuesday, but none of us wanted it.

We will never cheat our fans. If always go out to try to win. The season that most are keen to avoid.

Coca-Cola Cup is one of the three main trophies in England, and there is still a Wembley final at stake. The fact that there is no place in Europe for the winner takes the edge off it a little, and it certainly explains why Manchester United are prepared to field

the competition. The European Cup is obviously their main priority, and their policy is clearly paying dividends, because they have been tremen-dously successful this season. United are in a good position anyway, because even if they rest players,

some of their younger players in

they can field a very strong side. There have been certain suggestions to help maintain interest in the Coca-Cola Cup and ease the burden on English clubs in Europe. One attractive idea is to turn it into an under-21 competition to give younger players a chance at the top level, although that would weigh it in favour of the big clubs, who have very strong

My preference is for a shortened competition. The Scottish League Cup programme has been criti-cised for being over so early, but I think most clubs would appreciate it if we could play most of the matches by Christmas, and then have, say, the semi-final and final closer to the end of the season. It is we are put into a game then we will fixture congestion later in the

Hoddle's different tactics

It wasn't the best performance by England last week, but I'm sure that the manager will have taken plenty out of it. Some critics don't seem to have completely understood what he was attempting against Cameroon.

Glenn Hoddle played a slightly different formation for this game. He used Robbie Fowler on his own up front, with Paul Scholes and me as inside forwards behind him. ahead of a central midfield pairing of Paul Gascoigne and Paul Ince.

It was a slightly unfamiliar position for me, and I had to come to terms with a role alongside Scholesy and Gazza. It may not have been an unqualified success. but with the World Cup finals still months away, the win was a bonus in the sense that it maintains the confidence within the squad. To do it with goals by Robbie and Scholesy was a real bonus because Glenn was looking at individual things, not a finished picture.

It has been suggested in some quarters that I did not do my chances of going to the finals any good with my performance, but I don't think about England like that at all. It was a team effort against Cameroon, and the manager wasn't giving us a one-off trial.

His was a very different perspective. He wanted to see how we

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)	N. T. S.	ADENTS	24			HOM			1. 3		AWAY			LAST 10 MATCHES W.D.L	CAN CAN
	C CONTRACT	40.	0 F	W	D	L	F	A	w	D	L.	F	A	W-D-L	OF THE
I. MANCHESTER LETD: (1) 1	14	28	+21	6	_1	0	23	4	2	3	2	8	6	5-3-2	L1
2. ARSENAL (2)	14	27	+15	5	2	0	18	3	2	4	1	12	12	5-4-1	W1
3. BLACKBURN ROVERS (3)	14	27	+13	4	2	1	16	9	3	4	0	10	4	4-5-1	W1
4. CHELSEA (4)	13	25	+13	4	0	1	10	6	4	1	3	19	10	6-1-3	W2
5. LEEDS (IRB (7))	14	23	+4	3	1	3	10	10	4	1	2	10	6	6-1-3	W2
6. LIVERPOOL (8)	13	22	+12	5	0	1	18	5	1	4	2	7	8	6-2-2	W1
7 LEICESTER GITY (5)	14	22	+5	3	3	2	11.	8	3	1	2	8	6	4-2-4	Li
8. DERBY COUNTY (6)	13	20	+6	4	2	0	14	4	2	0	5	11	15	5-2-3	L1
9. WIMBLEDON 70)	14	19		2	2	4	8	9	_3	2	1	8	6	5-2-3	W1
10. NEWCASTLE UTD (9)	11	18	-1	4	2	· j	10	8	1	1	2	4	7	4-3-3	D3
11. COVENTRY CITY (12)	14	17	-4	2	6	0	10	8	1	2	3	2	8	2-6-2	D1
12. CRYSTAL PALACE (13)	13	16	-2	0	3	3	4	9	4	1	2	9	6	3-4-3	D1
13. SOUTHAMPTON (16)	114	16	-4	4	1	3	13	10	1	0	5	-4	11	4-1-5	МЗ
14. WEST HAM UTD (11)	13	16	-4	4	0	1	10	4	1	1	6	7	17	3-1-6	L2
15. ASTON VILLA (14)	14	15	-7	2	. 1	3	6	11	2	2	4	7	9	4-3-3	D1
16. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (15)	14	13	-10	3	2	2	7	7	0	2	5	4	14	2-4-5	L3
17. EVERTON (17)	13	12	-6	3	1	-3	11	11	. 0	2	4	4	10	2-3-5	12
18. BOLTON WANDERERS (18)	13	12	-11	1	4	1	3	3	1	2	4	7	18	1-5-4	L1
19. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (20)	14	12	-12	3	1	3	13	12	0	2	5	-10	23	3-2-5	W1.
20. BARNSLEY (19)	14	10	-29	2	1	4	6	15	1	0	6	5	25	1-1-8	L1

ATA			
Goals s	cored	Avge	
1. Chelsea	29	2.23	1
2. Manchester Utd	31	2.21	1
3. Arsenal	30	2.14	
4. Derby	25	1,92	П
= Liverpool	25	1.92	
6. Blackburn	26	1.66	
Sheffield Wed	23	1.64	1
8. Leeds	20	1.43	1
g. Leicester	19	1.36	
10. West Ham	17	1.31	
11. Newcastle	14	1.27	
12. Southampton	17	1.21	
13. Everton	15	1.15	1
14. Wimbledon	16	1.14	

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. Leeds	20	1.43	Crystal Palace	. 7 .	
i, Leicester	19	1.36	Derby	10	
). West Ham	17	1.31	Everton	5.	
Newcastle	14	1.27	Leeds Utd	14	
. Southempton	17	1.21	Laicestar	7	
S. Everton	15	1.15	Liverpool	. 6	
, Wimbledon	16	1.14	Manchester Utd	. 16	
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. Aston Villa	13	0.93	Sheffield Wed	11	-
	12	38.0	Southampton	6	
Coventry	11	0.79	Tottenham	. 6	
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Tottenham	11	0.79		5	
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Lelcaster	14	1.00	Aston Villa
. Liverpool	13	1.00	Barnsley Blackburn
, Arsenal	15	1.07	
Wimbledon	15	1.07	Bolton Chelses
. Coventry	16	1,14	
Leeds	16	1.14	Coventry Crystal Palace
. Crystal Palace	15	1.15	Derby
). Chelsea	16	1.23	Everton
. Newcastie	15	1,36	Leeds Utd
2. Aston Villa	20	1.43	Leicester
B. Derby	19	1.46	Liverpool
Southampton	21	1.50	Manchester Utd
Tottenham	21	1.50	Newcastle
	21	1.61	Sheffield Wed
S. Bolton	21 .	1.61	Southampton
Everton	21	1.61	Tottenham
West Ham), Sheffield Wed	35	2.50	West Ham
), Spenielu Weu Romelev	40	2,86	Wimbledon

FOR STANKE	THEM		SCORERS
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Aston VIIIs	5	8	Sutton (Blackburn) 10 Wright (Arsenal) 9
Bamsley	6	5 .	
Blackburn	19	. 7	Balano (Derby) 8 Hartson (West Harn) 8
Bollen	5	5	Balano (Derby) 8 Hartson (West Harn) 8 Carbone (Sheff Wed) 7
Chelsee	14	15	Cole (Mari Utd) 7
Coventry	6	6	Dublin (Coventry) 7
Crystal Palace	. 7	6	Gallacher (Blackburn) 7
Derby	10	15	Sheringham (Man Utd) 7
Everton	5	10	Wallace (Leeds)
	14	6	Davies (Southampton) 6
Leeds Utd		12	Fowler (Liverpool) 6
Leicester	7		Players on 5 goels: Berkovic (West
Liverpool	. 6	19	Ham); Cort (Wimbledon); DI Canio (Shell
Manchester Utd	. 16	15	Wed): Marahali (Laicester); Wanchope
Newcastie	. 8	. 6	(Darby).
Sheffleld Wed	11	12	Players on 4 gouls: Blake (Bolton);
Southampton	5	11	Cadamarteri + Speed (Everton); Collins
Tottenham	- 6	5	(Sheff Wed); Ellicit (Leicetter); Hughes M
Wort Hern	- A	13	+ Poyet + Visili (Chelses); McMenaman

11	Hedisam (Bamsley): Stu	nidge (De	tby.
	CAUTIO	NS :	
ziled	Cards issued	Yellow	Red
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3	2. Araenal	31	1
6	3. Bolton	· 28	3
6	4. Everton	- 28	2
5	5. C Palace	29	1
5	6. West Ham	30	9
.1	7. Coventry	27	1
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8	12. Derby	24	1
3	18. Manchester Utd*	23	0
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16535631311	15. Liverpool	21	1
1	16. Wimbledon	22	0
	17. Barnsley	21	0
- 6∵	18. Leicecter	17	1

	92-3	93-4	94-6	95-6	96-7	97-8	Tota
A Sheerer (Blackburn)	16	31	34	31	25	0	137
L Ferdinand (Tottenham)	20	16	24	25	16	3	104
Wright (Arsenal)	15	25	18	15	23	9	103
R Fowler (Liverpool)	-	12	25				89
E Sheringham (Man Utd)	21	14	18	15		7	83
M Le Tissier (Southampton)	15	25	19	7	13	2	81
A Cole (Man Utd)	-	34	21	11	7	7	BC
E Cantona (Man Utd)	15	18	12	14	11	-	70
C Sutton (Blackburn)	8	25	15	0	11	10	69
C Armstrong (Tottenham)	15	22	В	15	5	2	67
D Holdsworth (Bolton)	19	17	7	10	5	1	59
P Beardsley (Bolton)	10	21	12	8	5	2	58
M Hughes (Chelsea)	15	- 11	8	8	8	4	54
A Cottee (Leicester)	12	16	13	10	D	0	51
D Yorke (Aston Villa)	6	2	8	17	17	2	50
S Collymore (Aston Villa)	_	_	22	14	12	1	46
D Dublin (Coventry)	1	1	13	14	13	7	49
M Bright (Charlton)	12	19	11	7	Ð	-	45
i Rush (Newcastle)	14	14	12	5	3	0	48
P. Deene /Shaffold Itell	15	11	9	7	5	_	47
B Deane (Shelfield Utd)	15 [4]	11 (4)	y L	MIE	RNI	7	- :

	P	Yellow	Red	Arsenal	www.armenal.co.co
1. S Dunn	5	25	1	Aston VIIIa	www.astorrvilla-tc.co.uk
2. G Willard	8	37	3	Blackburn	WWW.rovers.co.UK
3. P Durkin	8	37	2	Belton	www.boltonwic.co.uk
4. M Reed	5	23	1	Dieses.	www.chelseafc.co.uk
5. G Ashby	7	30	1	Coveratry	www.ccfc.co.uk
B. P. Alcock	7	30	0	C Palace	www.cpfc.co.Uk
7. J Winter	8	31	2	Derby	_
B. G. Barber	7	27	1	Eventon	everlanic.merseyworld.com
9, M Bodenham	7	28	0	Leads	www.kulc.co.uk
O. D Elleray	6	23	1	Lekcester	www.lcfc.co.uk
11. U Rennie	7	26	0	Liverpool	_
2. G. Poll	9	29	3	Men Utd 1	munusky.co.uk/eports/manu
3. M Riley	7	20	1	Newcastle we	w.neurcastie-utd.co.utchuic
4. P Jones	7	19	2	Shell Wad	_
5, N Barry	7	21	0	Southempton	www.solon.ac.uk/~egints
6. D Gallegher	8	20	2	Tottanham	www.spurs.co.uk
7. A Wilkie	8	20	7	West Hitts	www.weathernunited.co.uk
8. K Burge	7	18	0	Wimbledon	
19. S Lodge	8	15	0	FA Premierable	www.fa-carling.com

MATCHES

ą i	WEEKEND
SE THE SE	TODAY Nucleof 3 0 unless stated "denotes all-indier Prois coupon numbers in brackets In Pharmership februes 1 donotes sold our, othlymass sales analysis
L1	FA Carling Premiership (1) Asion Villa v Everton (2) Blackturn v Chelses
W1	(3) Derby v Covenity (4) Lacester v Botton (5) Liverpool v Barnsley (6) Newcosile v Southempton
W1	(7) Shelt Wed v Arsenal (8) Wimbledon v Man Litd Nationwide League Pliat division
W2	(9) Bury v Sunderland
W2	112) Norwich v Oxford Lite (13) Nodingham Forest v Charton (14) Port Vele v Sheft Utd (15) Portsmouth v Woverhampton P (16) QPR v Huddersheld P
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Li	Noting F 17 10 4 3 25 14 34 Swindon 18 10 4 4 25 22 34 West Brom 17 10 4 3 31 13 34 Middleshro 16 9 8 3 30 15 31
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D1	Reading 18 4 6 8 17 26 18 Cotord . 18 4 6 9 20 26 17 Inswerh . 16 3 7 6 16 21 16
D1	Huddensitis 18 3 5 10 13 90 14 Espond division
W3	(20) Blackpool v York. (21) Bournemouth v Carlisle. (22) Bristol City v Wycombe. (23) Grimoby v Burnley. (24) Luton v Watsalf
L2	(25) Milwall v Chesterfield
D1.	(20) * Wigan v Preston
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L1	Oldham . 46 7 6 5 807 35 27 Whedham 17 7 5 5 24 20 26 Galryshem 18 7 5 6 24 23 25 Bourremouth 18 7 4 7 27 30 25 Bristof R 18 6 7 5 19 18 25 Bristof R 18 6 6 6 19 19 24 Peston 18 6 6 6 19 19 24 Wycombe 18 6 7 26 29 21 20 Gransby 17 5 6 6 7 26 29 21
8/4	Wycombe III 8 6 7 26 29 21 Gransby 17 5 6 6 17 17 21 Prymouth 78 4 7 7 23 65 19 Ween 17 5 8 8 22 67 19

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheshani v
Hirzhert Dulwich v Dagenham and Redbridge, Enfield v Harrow, Gravesend and Northfleet v
Watton and Hersham Hendon v Boreham Wood;
Heybridge v Kingstonian: Oxford City v Carshalton:
Purfied v Bishop's Storflord St Albans v Aviesbury.
Sutton United v Basingstoke Yearding v Bromley Pinst division: Abingdon Town v Wollingham
Pinst division: Abingdon Town v Wollingham
Aldershot Town v Thame United, Barton Rovers v
Maudenhead, Billencay v Wembley, Bognor Regis v Leethorhead Chertsey v Romford, Croydon v
Stanes Hamming & Berkhumsled, Levion Pennant
Stancs Hampton v Berkhamsted, Leyton Permant v Molesey. Litchnoge v Grays Whyteleate v Worthing Second division: Egitarn v Challon St
Worthing Second division: Eartern v Charlon St
Mater: Industry v Becalord I vylhosor Bho Elon v
Wiverhoe, Withorn v Cheshurt. Third division:
Croydon v East Thurrock; Epsom and Ewell v Connthian-Casuals, Homehurch v Southall, Lowes
v Harlow, Tring v Ford United Ware v Dorking
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accompton Stanley v Bishop Auckland, Affelon v Lancaster.
Bamber Bridge v Colvon Bay Frickley / Battow
Bamber Bridge v Colwyn Bay, Frichley / Barrow Guseley v Chorley Hyde v Leigh RMI, Manne v Altinicham, Radellife v Blyth Sportans, Rundom v
Alimocham, Rapcliffe v Blvth Sportans, Runcom v
Garstonough: Spennymon v Beeton, Winsland v Emley First division: Astron United v Harrogale
Emley First division: Ashton United v Hamogale
Towns Practiced Park Ave v Stockshilder PS
Budon v Greina, Congloton v Whitby Eastwood
Town v Great Hanvood: Lincoln Linted v Droyfsden
Trafford v Farsley Celtic Whatey Bay v Madock Town: Albion v Flaton, Workington v Belper Town,
Workage v Netherfield
AICHNICH A LIGHT CHICATA

COVERAGE

TELEVISION: BBC1; Today: Foot-ball Focus, from 12.20pm, Match of the Day, from 10.50pm. Tomorrow; Match of the Day (repeat), from 7.20am. Sky Sports 1: Today: Sports Salurday Update, from 12 noon; Live Spanish Football, from 7pm. Tomorrow: Goals on Sunday, from 11an, Premiesthio, Leeds Uni-from 11an, Premiesthio, Leeds Uni-

7pm. fornorrow: Goals on Sunday, from 11am. Premiership, Leeds United v West Ham United, from 3pm (repeated Sky Sports 3, 10pm) Sky Sports 2. Tomorrow: Live Football League, West Bromwich Albion v Barmingham, from 12 noon Sky Sports 3: Today: Spocer AM, from Barn. Tomorrow: Soccer Extra, from Ram.

RADIO: BBC Radio 5 Live: Today: Live commentary in Sport on 5, from 1pm. Tomorrow: Live commentary on Leeds v West Ham in Trevor Brooking's Sunday Sport, from 1pm.

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Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

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(31) Brighton v Carolif

(22) Colchesier v Lincoln

(33) Darlington v Cambridge Utd

(34) Doncoster v Bonddale

(35) Eveter v Shrewsbury

(36) Hartlepool v Barnet

(37) Leyton Cheni v Notts County

(38) Macclestigid v Hull

(30) Parchapton v Monsheld (39) Peterborough v Monsheld (—) Scarborough v Rotherham (—) Swansea v Chester Valsinal Commission Vauchal Continuos

(--) Chetenham v Gaiteshead
(--) Halriax v Herntord
(--) Hayes v Northwich
(--) Hednesford v Stough
(--) Nodermander v Nortenng
(--) Morecambe v Rushden & Damonds
(--) Southport v Sarybridge
(--) Stevenage v Famborough

(40) Cettic v Dundee Utd... (41) Duntermine v Aberdeen (42) Motherwell v Rangers (43) St Johnstone v Hibernian First division (44) Ayr v Airdne

Belt's Scottish League Premier division

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Prem division: Dem, v SI Patrick's Aith (7:30) Kulkenn Sheibourne (7:30)

TOMORROW

FA Carling Premiership Leeds v West Ham (4 0) Nationwide League West Bromwich v Birmingham (1 0) Bell's Scottish Leegue Hearts v kilmarnock (2 0) FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundally v Cork. (3.15). **GOLF: FORTUNE FAVOURS OLDEST NOVICE ON TOUR**

Nelson helps to tee off career of caddie

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN SOTOGRANDE

SIMON JOHNSON permitted himself a slight smile. His second round as a professional caddie had gone well. He had not forgotten to rake a bunker or wipe clean an iron. His yardages, written in neat pencil in a small notebook, which also contained a diagram of each hole, were clear and precise. He had spoken when he was spoken to. read the lines of the putts and made sure he put the golf bag down on the side of the green nearest to the

Now, the 44-year-old was less of a novice in the black art of caddy-ing than he had been four days earlier when, on leave from his job as secretary at Stinchcombe Hill golf club in Gloucestershire, he had been searching for a player to caddie for in the European tour qualifying school in southern Spain. He had flown down to

TOM WATSON, winner of eight

major championships, is 48 years old but, yesterday, in the second round of the Dunlop Phoenix Tournament in Miyazaki, Japan,

the American hit a shot that he

claimed he would have been inca-

pable of playing ten years ago (Patricia Davies writes). "It made the round pleasurable," Watson.

who recorded a round of 65, six

under par, to move into the lead on

eight-iron and it set up Watson's

second birdie of the day, at the 5th, a 390-yard par-four. "I hit a beautiful drive," Watson said, "but

it was in the little ravine that

crosses the fairway, on a very

severe downslope in a shallow

divot. I had 135 yards to the pin and

I hit it six feet from the hole. It was

a wonderful shot and I loved

playing it." Yesterday. Watson, who won five

The shot in question was with an

work, hoping he would find a golfer needing a caddie.

Looking for an employer like this is known among caddies as roasting, as in standing around in the sun, roasting. Some caddies take months to find a bag; it took Johnson only a matter of minutes. "I saw this man climbing into his car and asked him for a lift to the San Roque golf course." Johnson said. "He asked me what I did and I said I was a caddie looking for a player. He grinned and said it was my lucky day because he was a player looking for a caddie. He is staying two doors down from me in the same hotel." It turned out that the man was Brian Nelson, who won the event three years ago.

It seems that fortune favours not only the brave but also the novice. Nelson, a 31-year-old Texan who had entered his first competitive tournament aged six, began shaki-

Open Championships in nine years

from 1977 to 1983, was also indebted

to the sharp eyes of Bruce Edwards, his caddie, who noticed that

the reason his boss was not hitting

the driver too well during his

warm-up was that he was standing

too open at address. The result was

a round of eight birdies and two

bogeys, one of them as the rain

started to teem down at the short

However, a birdle four at the last, where Watson chipped to three feet and jabbed the putt home, lifted the gloom.

Jumbo Ozaki, champion for the

past three years, is in sixth place.

on 139, four behind his old rival.

Craig Parry, the Australian who is

the Japan Open champion, is second, a shot behind Watson.

tet was struggling, with José Maria Olazábai and Darren Clarke the

best-placed on 142, level par.

The European Ryder Cup quar-

Watson's repertoire

improving with age

ly with a 74 at San Roque. It contained one double-bogey but as it was his first competitive round for months, he was not too concerned. He had hardly played for three years, what with getting a divorce and one thing and another, and the routines of competitive golf took some rediscovering. Some of that rustiness began to

disappear at Guadalmina in the second round yesterday. He had putts for a birdie at three of the first four holes and finished with a 71, to be one over par overall, seven strokes behind Adam Tillman, the leader. Johnson was pleased at what he was seeing. "Brian was hitting the ball better than he was at the start of the week," he said. "If he keeps improving like this he is going to be all right."

Johnson added: "I did a bit of caddying for Stewart Little on the west region and one thing that he told me was never ever say hard luck' to him. The game is about skill, not luck, it is best to keep calm. You don't hug after a birdie nor do you burst into tears after a bogey. The hardest thing is the anguish at seeing putts slip by. Then there is keeping your player dry, getting the brolly up and

Heavy rain in Spain fell on Thursday night and caused play to be abandoned at San Roque yesterday before a ball had been struck. The second round at San Roque will be played today, while the players at Guadalmina, having completed their second rounds. have a day off The competition will Wednesday instead of

Johnson thought Nelson might need him on the practice ground or the putting green. Brian has a vertebra missing in his back and he can't practice for long because he gets tired. He putts with his left hand below his right because that puts less pressure on him. But I had better go and find him."

Suddenly lunch was over. It was time for the newest caddie on the Costa del Sol - and one of the oldest - to get back to work.

Davies enables Archer to take a bow

هِكذا من رالامهل

FROM MILL WEBB IN LA MANGA

THEY should have been leaping, exultant, into the air; but they were much too tired for such celebratory shenanigans. Instead, they sat looking at each other, still slightly dazed, still breaking into broad smiles that kept returning, unbidden, to their lips; still not quite believing it. That's what victory in *The Times* Mees-Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge does to people.

By the time this missive lands on the breakfast tables of Britain this morning, the four men who took Archer Leisure, nationwide operators of health and fitness clubs, to success in the national final of the Challenge here yester-



day will, in all probability, have started to come to terms with the measure of their triumph. It is something that they will not want to let go for a while because, in two days of draining pressure, they climbed through the foothills of achievement and reached the

pinnacle of their sporting lives.

They were still finding it diffi-cult to wipe the grins off their faces as they walked into the gala dinner that brought the 1997 Challenge to a festive close. A long night of surrender into the strong arms of Bacchus was no less than they deserved and every man-jack of their 52 rivals was waiting his turn to help them to For the second day the Archer

performance was one of solidity in their game and solidarity in their common purpose. A score of 73 Stableford points gave them a total of 154, four ahead of Derry Landscapes, who produced the highest score of the day, 78 points, with AGF Irish Life Holdings a further two points astern.

Chris Gotla, Archer's twohandicap captain, again led his colleagues, Steve Davies, Marke



Toast of La Manga: from left, Gotla, the captain, Davies, Taylor and Allen after Archer's victory in the Challenge

Allen and Paul Taylor, with quiet authority, but the real hero was Davies. Up all night with severe gastric problems, he was still not certain 90 minutes before the team's tee-time that he would be able to play, but a sympathetic

nostrum to get Davies on to the golf course and keep him there. By the end Davies was a wan shadow of the man who had played such an important part in

local doctor was able to provide a

lead on the first day. But he still did his bit; nobody, most of all his team-mates, would have blamed him had he taken to his bed, a place that had played no part in his life on Thursday night. He said that he was glad he had played, and was believed. Nobody's British upper lip was stiffer on this day.

Good golf was made incrementally more difficult than it had been in the first round. Then, the players had only a boisterous wind to hinder them. Now it was joined by rain and more rain that poured from the slate-grey thunderheads that rolled across the Murcian skyline throughout a grumpy, surly sort of a day.

By the time Archer went through the turn, they led Derry

FINAL SCORES

164: Archer Leisure 81, 73
150: Derry Landscapes 72, 78
148: AGF Irish Life Holdings 74, 74
149: Anglo Holt Construction 72, 71:
Citibank NA 69, 74, Duracell Batteries 72, 71
142: Shandon Leisure 72, 70
141: West Bromwich Building Society 68, 73
140: Drakes Group 65, 75
139: Ora Electronics 75, 64; Orchard Toys 68, 71

132: McClurs Walters 70, 66 131: Devonport Management 65, 66 123: Opus 4 Integrated 62, 61

Landscapes by seven shots, a gap that would have been smaller had Archer not just had a six-point haul on the 9th hole.

It followed a mere two on the tough par-three 8th, so could not have been better timed. The 9th is a handful in the best of conditions, but now it was 600 yards of hard labour directly into the wind. Allen is a powerful chap, but even after a driver, threewood and four-iron he was still 65 yards short of the green. A deft three-quarter pitching-wedge left him with a two-foot putt for a net birdie and three points. Gotta,

144

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n: Usua

15.00

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mar.

inevitably, also had a net birdie.
On the first day the team scored seven points on the 18th. By the time they reached the home tee this time they had already won. The celebrations, although they did not know it at the time, could begin. It was a fine performance by anybody's standards; the end of a long, winding and highly successful road for the Challenge

SPORT IN BRIEF

Leeds hunt Goodway

RUGBY LEAGUE: Leeds Rhinos are expected early next week to announce the appointment of Andy Goodway, the Great Britain coach, as their head coach in succession to Dean Bell, who stepped down last month to become head of youth development. Goodway, who coached Oldham Bears and Paris Saint-Germain last season before Britain's 2-1 series defeat by Australia, also hopes to continue his international role. His contract with Britain runs until the World Cup in Australasia next year. Goodway is believed to be considering the Leeds offer this weekend.

Bovill given new chance

■ CRICKET: James Bovill, 26, the fast bowler released by Hampshire at the end of last season because he had a stress fracture in his spine, has been approached by Sussex. "The fracture has healed." he said. Bovill said that the Sussex cricket manager. Dave Gilbert, thought his problem was a "technical fault" in his action that could be corrected.

England on target

SHOOTING: Ian Potts and Chris Hector, both former British champions, gave England a good start in the Commonwealth shooting championships in Malaysia. winning the air rifle pairs gold medal yesterday. Hector scored

Tigers to face Bullets

■ BASKETBALL: Thames Valley Tigers have drawn Birmingham Bullets, unbeaten in the league, in the semifinals of the Sainsbury's Classic Cola National Cup.

SEMI-FINALS: Theress Valley Tigers y Samangham Bullots (1st lag Dec 10, 2nd lag Dec 17) London Towers y Landester Alders (1st lag Dec 11, 2nd leg Dec 18)

Male thwarts Gooding

■ REAL TENNIS: Mike Gooding, the defending champion, went out of the British Land British Open at Queen's Club yesterday, losing to James Male in four sets. In the semifinals tomorrow, Male faces Chris Bray while Rob Fahey, the No I seed, plays Wayne Davies, a fellow Australian.

SNOOKER

Hendry eager for return to grand stage

STEPHEN HENDRY, who has been less than impressive during the opening two rounds of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom Championship, is convinced that the arrival of the television cameras will coincide with his return to top form (Phil Yates writes).

The Scot takes on Anthony Hamilton at Preston Guild Hall today for a place in the quarter-finals and believes that, in a familiar environment, his game will blossom.

"The big stage is where I thrive," Hendry in search of his fourth successive UK title. said. "There is absolutely no doubt in my mind I've done the hard work by getting through the first couple of matches. I'll play well from here on in."

In common with Hendry. Ronnie O'Sullivan has been subdued so far, but the 1993 UK champion would appear to be the most likely finalist to emerge from a depleted bottom half of the draw, If O'Sullivan overcomes Gary Wilkinson as expected, his quarter-final opposition will be provided by Gary Ponting or Gerard Greene.

Ponting, who defeated John Higgins in the last 64, and Greene, a 9-2 winner against Steve Davis, are making their debuts in the last 16 of a leading tournament, as is Martin Dziewialtowski, from

Second Test match PERTH (second day of five) Australia, with so first-immige wokets in hand, are 18 runs shead of New Zealand NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 217 (C D McMilan 54, C L Carns 52, 8 K Warne

4-83)
AUSTRALIA: First Innings
"M A Taylor the O'Connor
M T 3 Ellor c O'Cornor b Carris
G S Blevet c Aste b O'Connor
M E Waugh c Parore b Doul
S R Waugh not out
H A Heasy not out
Extras (b 2, b 3 nb 4)

Total (4 wide) 235
R T Ponding P R Reifiel, S K Warne, M S
Kasprowcz and S Cook to bat
FALL OF WICKETS 1-3, 2-53, 3-71 4-224 BOWLING Doug 14-2-49-1, O'Cormor 17-3-60-2, Carms 13-6-35-1, Vetton 16-6-39-0; Allott 12-2-47-0 Umpres: O Haz (Australia) and G Sharp (England)

First Test match

India v Sti Lanka MOHALI (there say of five India, with an indianating around in hand, are 76 name before St Larva SRI LANKA: Fest Inneres 363 OJ S Atsouth, 108 S T Jayasuma 53 J Smath 4-92, A Kunnika 4-88).

Runnia 4-98),
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TN R Monga o Murpimaron 57
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N S Cisanova not co. 7

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COTAL VASA 19-T-42-0, SiDe SiNa 17-3-45-0, Dhamistene 25-5-43-0; Muraithiann 51-3-56-1, ayastanya 30-12-59-2. Umbares, Silvanovi Mest Indes) and SiVerkstangman undia company National Process
SHEFFIELD SHEED record day of four
Sydney New South Wases 128 and and 800 70 L Siber 41 nd old Western Australia
SEC (R.L. Campber 177 D.R. Marryn 90, A.
Sham 7-76.

BASKETBALL

FOR THE RECORD

SAINSBURY'S CLASSIC DOLA NAT-IONAL CUP: Quarter-final: London Towers

FOOTBALL

Thursday's lets results Town 2.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Cup: Group times:
Postponed: Notis County v Lalcester
(TALIAN CUP: Third round, second leg:
AS Rome 2 Udnese 1 (Rome win 4-3 on

AS Forms 2 Lichnese I (norms and agg)
PRENCH LEAGUE: Streetbourg 2 Mergelles 0; Montpelle 1.
Anders 3 Montpelle 1.
Anders 4 Montpelle 1.
Anders 4 Montpelle 1.
Anders 5 Montpelle 1.
Anders 6 Montpelle 1.
Anders 6 Montpelle 1.
Anders 7 Montpell

HUWAH ISLAND, South Carolina: World
Cup: Leading first-round scores: 130:
Sweden (PJ Johanson 54, J Haeggman
69, 133: Germany (S Struer 70, A Cejta
(31, 134, Scotland (R Russel 68, C
Montgorrens 68, 135: Spam (G Gentido 67,
M A Marin 68) 136: Ergland (P Broadhurs)
83 M Jurnes 63, 137: Ireland (P Hammgdon
71, P McGarloy 66), Malaysia (M Ramayah
71, M kadr 66), United States (D Love 65, J
Leonard 72, Other score: 148: Wales (P
Price 72 1 Woocham 74)
FGA BURDEPAN TOUR CHALIFFING
SCHOOL: Leading second-round scores
(SB or lev unless stated Councilamental
138. A Tillman 70, 68 133: A Stot: (Aus) 72,
67 M Daws 69, 70: M PILI; (Fin) 70, 69: P
Goding 71, 68 140: A Sandywed 70, 70: P
Nyman (Swel 68) 72: 68 A Beal 69: 71, M
Blacker 72, 68; P Lurner (Sc) 73, 67 A Tolayse 69, 70
Blacketton 75: 68: J Roberson 73, 70, A
Cretar 70, 73: F Howkey 71, 70, 142: A Wall
71, 71, 143 D Roy 71, 72: G Cark 75, 68; J
Backetton 75: 68: J Roberson 73, 70, A
Cretar 70, 73: F Howkey 71, 72: S Dodd 71,
73. S Bonnett 75, 68; M Plusmer 74, 69
144: D Ben (Switz) 73, 72: A Rivess (US) 71,
73, M Perndanes (Fin 71, 73: PWay 71, 73: A
Capp 73, 71: M Lanner (Swe) 70, 74: J
Scholen (Aus) 73, 71: San Roguez Second
round porsponed until Saunday bocause of
wollenged fanweys
MELBOURNER Australian PGA: Leading

round postponed until Saunday bocause of watertogged farways; MELBOURNE Australian PGA: Leading second-round scares (Aus unless stand): 140: S Alan 69, 71, S Corran 73, 67, 141: S Applety 99, 73: A Androws 74, 69, 01bor scores: 143: R Dans 70, 73: A Cottart (GB 72, 71: J Guepy (Fr) 72, 71, R Allenby (Aus) 73, 70.

Gooser, (SA) 66, 72, 138: M Ozaki 68, 71; C Franco (Per) 66, 71, 140; 8 Maruyama, 72, 68; H Taneka 57, 73, 141; N Ozaki 68, 71; C Yokoo 71, 70; K Tomon 71, 70; P McWhinney (Aus) 70, 71; G Sato 67, 74. BANGKOK Leisza Internationat Leeding second-notand scores: 134: M Curring (US) 69, 65; K His Harn (Bres) 67, 57; K Welker (GB) 69,68; C Plephol (Thei) 64, 70, 136; L War-Tah (Thei) 69, 67; A Atwal (India) 67,69, 137: E Meetra (US) 70, 67; V Brandan (India) 67, 70. SATA, Jepan: Elseir Leclies Open: Leading Rhil-round scores (Japan unissa sizaed): 68; Y Haga; 68; Shooten, A Yamaoka, Theiu-Feng (Tawan), A Najano, S Sore (S Kores); 69; K Ok-Hee (S Kores), N Noro, Y Monguchi, T Bando, K Fujii.

ICE HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Burfalo 6 Boston D; Calgasy 2 Flonds 1 Jersey 5 NY Istanders 1; Pitsburgh 2 Otteva D; Sen Jose 3 Philadelphia D; Edmonton 3 St Louis D; Los Angeles 4 Chicago 3; Vancouver 4

EXPRESS CLP: Carditi Devils 3 Basingstow Bean (L

REAL TENNIS OUBERN'S CLUB: British Land British Open (GB unless stated): Merx Second round: C Bray bt A Lyons 5-1, 6-3, 6-5 Ouarter-finals: FI Fahey (Aus) bi N Wood 6-5, 6-3, 6-2 C Bray bt J Snow 2-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 8-8

HUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Sale 14 Tonga XV 26. CLUB MATCHES: Boroughmur 29 Kirk caldy 18; Kirmamock 8 Ayr 3 (abandoned after 50mm, adverse weather conditions) siter Somm, acterese weather conditional wALES SOLUAD (to play New Zealand, at Wembley on November 29); K Mongan (Portypredd), G Wyett (Portypredd); N Walker (Cardell), G Thomas (Bottgerd), D James (Portypredd), S Gibbs (Swenzee); L Devies (Cardell), A Babassan (Portypredd); A Thomas (Swenzee); N Jeritéres (Portypredd); P John (Portypredd); R Howley (Cardell); C Leeder (Swenzee). S John (Cardell); B Williams (Partypredd), G Jeritéres), C Stephens, (Biolognell); G Leevellyn (Harfell), G Stephens (Biolognell); G Leevellyn (Harfell), G Stephens (Biolognell); G Leevellyn (Harfell), G Jones (Cardell); N Thomas (Bath); S Williams (Cardell)

IGUALA LUMPUR, Me Commonwealth Shootie Chemploredige Men's Air Ritte (Peins): Gold: England (s. Potts, C. Hester) 1164 points; Silver: South Africa (H. Sauer, P. Clinton) 1157; Bronzer Meteysia (A. Muharib Rezek, A. Zeicarle) 1155.

Men's Trup (Tearnh: Gold: England (M. Iddon, D. Kirly 182 points; Silver: Weles (R. W. Devies, A. Megglson) 185; Bronzer: Austrats (G. Mari, N. Pedule) 185.

Men's Solin Free Pistol (Pains): Gold: India (S. Kumar, V. Singh) 1000 points; Silver: Australia (D. Rogers, S. Stoph) 1006; Bronzer: England (N. Bester, W. Hill) 1059.

Women'in Sports Pistol (Pains): Gold: Australia (G. Hichocolt, I. Ryan) 1127 points; Silver: South Africa (H. Lavy, P. VO. Wilden) 1126; Bronzer: England (C. Page, C. Essuorth) 1121.

Women's 50m Sport Ritie, 60 prons (Paire): Gold: South Africa (P Reafre, C Potgleter) 1162 points; Silver: England (S Norman, J Howden) 1180 (won on coun

SKUNG

PARK CITY, Uteh: World Cup: Mex. Glent shalon: 1, H Maler (Austria) 2min 43,99ec; 2, K Aamodt (Nor) 2-45,79; 3, T Grandi (Cari) 2-46,31, 4, 8 Eberharter (Austria) 2-46,57; 5, C Mayer (Austria) 2-46,72; 6, J Strobi (Austria) 2-48,84

TENNIS NEW YORK: Chase Championehio: Quar-ter-finals: M Plarce (Fr) br M Hingis (Switz) 6-3, 2-6, 7-5; N Tauziei (Fr) br I Majoli (Cro) 7-8, 7-6.

ter-ansies. M Pierce (Fr) bit M Hangis (Switz)
6-3, 2-6, 7-5; N Tauziei (Fr) bit I Majoli (Cro)
7-8, 7-6.
HARTFORD, Commoditious: ATP describles championehip (nound robm): Yellow groups: E Ferram (SA) and P Galbratin (US) bit M Knowles (Beh) I) Nestor (Can) 6-2, 6-7.
7-5 Green groups: S Lansau (Can) and A O'Brien (US) bit J Johnson and F Montente (US) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3
PATTAYA, Thailland: Volvo Women's Opens: Third round: O Barebenschikova (Bela) bit N Prati (Aus) 6-0, 6-3 Ouertenfinate: R Dragomer (Born) bit C Morentu (US) 4-5, 6-3, 8-0; H Nagyova (Slouakia) bit S Kleinova (Cz) 6-3, 6-4; D Van Roost (Beh) bit L Courbos (Beh) 6-2, 6-1. Uvan Roost (Beh) bit L Courbos (Beh) 6-2, 6-1. Uvan Roost (Beh) shrip: bit W Harbert (Middiesea) 6-2, 6-1; N Weel (Hampshire) bit C Edimondson (Lanca) 6-3, 6-1 Semi-finate: Layue bit Betes 6-4, 6-4; Weel bit McPherson 6-2, 6-2; Women: (Custren-finate: J Pullin (Sussed) bit Erbova (Cz) 6-2, 6-2; L Pedons (Durham and Cloweland) bit McPherson (Pullin Sussed) bit Erbova (Cz) 6-2, 6-2; L Pedons (Durham and Cloweland) bit N Woodrouse (Norloh) 6-3, 6-0; J Lutrova (Pus) bit J White (Northams) 6-0, 6-1; L Latimer (Wannicksvire) bit Z Golopencza (Hur) 6-2, 6-3; Lutrova bit Letimer (Pullin bit Pertins 6-3, 6-3; Lutrova bit Letimer (Pullin bit Pertins 6-3, 6-3; Lutrova bit Letimer (Pullin bit Pertins 6-4, 6-2).

Boxing

Lewis can rise to challenge of Guerault

ANY bout involving Ady Lewis, of Bury, virtually guarantees non-stop action and excitement (Srikumar Sen writes). The diminutive flyweight, who at 4ft 101 is Britain's smallest champion, should not disappoint those who make the trip to Bowlers Leisure Centre, Manchester. tonight to see him challenge David Guerault, of France, for the European title.

Lewis has a tough job, for not only is Guerault, 24, technically capable of dealing with the British and Commonwealth champion, but with a height advantage of eight inches he could pose difficult tactical problems for the challenger. The Frenchman has im-

pressed in all his six bouts. particularly when knocking out Jesper Jensen, of Denmark, who had an unbeaten record of 22 contests. After being floored in the first round, Guerault used his height and reach to avoid the Dane's punches and knocked him out in the tenth round. For Lewis, Guerault could

pose similar problems to the towering Peter Culshaw, of Liverpool. Lewis eventually wore Culshaw down with body punches and even though the champion is a southpaw, he could still be vulnerable to a sustained close range assault. Lewis can be expected to win a hard contest



TRY NEW PLANTERS OTHER NUTS



By rights, you'll soon be singing their praises from the rooftops.

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

championship in the

rified, but the psychologists might understand. To McRae,

power and peril are not just an mavoidable part of the day job but his possessive partners

He could, of course, have sat

at home, in his apartment in

Monte Carlo; and fretted

about the improbable mission

that awaits him when the

Network Q RAC Rally begins in Cheltenham at dawn tomor-

row. But that would not

in life, his liberation.

Alan Lee charts a British duo's improbable quest for a world championship in the Network Q RAC Rally

McRae fired by driving ambition

kead on the first day. But he at did his hit, nothedly, most of all le team-mates, would have blank him had be taken to his had place that had placed no park that he was clad be he may did not he had be all that he was clad be he may be and that he was believed, and was believed by the serific on this day. body's British apper lip to

from the difficult than it be hair-raising manner that suits peck in the first toning their states and their him best. Last weekend, while Marce had only a hersleng logic counselled caution and prized by faill and more failed self-protection, he gave himself up to the intoxication of Another Justin the Tribonic south speed and hurled a moto-cross derived that rolled dense to bike around a challenging Martin skyline dimughous a course in Wales. Sober sporting coaches, in-155 the time Archer 25 rough the turn, they led be tent on the conventions of rest and well-being, would be hor-

FINAL SCORES

have been his style. Relaxation comes on wheels or, by Landscapes by seven shots as way of a change thest to this fact of been malled on skis, on a raft or in a free-fail And or met just had a sing parachute. Take bins' on the 9th hide. away speed and College of the state of danger and you were moretimen see to multiopen the ent best for terms I the on out, of the A Section to the level of the Constitution of the same of the same This, then, is word fallenger free-garming

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Logical Control of the State of

Lewis cann

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a singular character in a singusport. Rallying creeps up on the British consciousness once a

year. It is a sport about which a few know everything and the great majority know nothing at all but, such is the clamour presently surrounding McRae, many more may boast a working knowledge come next Tuesday. The position, for this daredevil yet tacitum Scot, is

precarious. Despite winning the two most recent events in the world championship, McRae, 29, arrives at this final rally of the season needing not only a victory for himself but a finish outside the first six for Tommi Makinen, the Finn who leads the standings. If this was to occur, the pair would finish level on points and McRae, whose father, Jimmy, and brother, Alister, will be among those driving against him, would be champion on the tie-break of win-

The odds are stacked in Makinen's favour but it is, nevertheless, the kind of duel that is the oxygen of any sport striving for its share of attention. The factor of McRae driving "at home" adds to the anticipation and Cheltenham, where the rally will now be staged for three years, is rubbing its hards.

Ken Jennings, head of tourism in the town, estimates that

olin McRae prepared for his bid to regain the world rallying the rally will fill between 15,000 and 20,000 hotel beds over the coming days. "We are crowbarring people in right across the county," he said. "My office is still taking calls from people seeking beds. When Chester lost the rally to us they said the potential loss

> More than 200 drivers entered the rally, the majority ambitious part-timers. They come from 24 countries and as farming, the law and a Jamaican businesshouse. The

Inside each vehicle, seen but never heard, acknowledged driver. Every leading driver

'He has the ability to find that extra five or ten

seconds when he needs it'

> self. It was good information. While the main man indulged a queue of cameramen and journalists on a muddy, media presentation around the fields of Oxfordshire, Grist relaxed in the Subaru bus and spoke of the burgeoning relationship that has reached the threshold of a world title.

"Colin is not like other people," he said, "He is pretty young for this game and has the special talent to make the job seem easy. You will never find him dripping in sweat at the end of a stage because it isn't a strain to him, yet he has the ability to find that extra five or ten-seconds when he

rist, 36, joined McRae this sesson

was EIO million over three years and I can now well believe it."

from backgrounds as diverse attention of the masses will, however, be focused on just two cars - the Subaru of McRae and the Mitsubishi of Makinen.

has his back-up group of technicians and

mechanics. types, but nobody becomes a top driver with out a slick, skil-ful and unflappable co-driver. If you want to

about McRae, I was assured, Nicky Grist will tell you more than the man him-

after previously working with Juha Kankkunen. "It's like a second marriage for us both," he said. ship and I would like to think we'll become best friends. It is certainly essential to get along well, because we spend 16 hours a day in each other's company, and you need total respect, total trust. My life is in his hands but then his is in

mine, too. "As we are fellow Celts, the banter is superb. People find it hard to grasp that it doesn't get tense in our car. We



actually laugh and joke a lot. There is the odd quick explo-sion between us, because we are only human, but we have not had a major row all

able rapport once it is appreciated that the pair have been in the odd scrape or two. "It is a fine line in this game and one small mistake can cost you everything. In Monte Carlo. we hit a patch of ice and wrapped the car round a tree. Then in Indonesia, where we had a comfortable lead, one

This week the pair have been on reconnaissance, driving each of the 26 stages at least twice in a practice car. "First time round, Colin describes to me how he wants to drive it, how he sees the lines of a corner or the shape of a hill, and I take it down it my own shorthand," Grist said.

On the second practice run, Grist calls out the instructions

from a notebook that has expanded at the rate of a page to each kilometre, McRae responds and the pace-notes, as they are called, are fine-"That information is worth perhaps 25 per cent of

our time," Grist said. "Fitness is a very big thing for us. We have a personal trainer and we fly our road bikes and mountain bikes around the world with us. We make time to train, even when it's tight. Usually, we'll cycle about 150 miles in the build-up Grist, however,

fitness rather than thrills. "Maybe I am the sensible one. Rallying is the be-all-and-endall to me and I don't have such a need to drive my mountain bike downhill as fast as it will go." That, however, is the compulsion that sets McRae apart and may yet bring the world championship back to

Rally views, page 49



RUGBY UNION Kick-off 3.0 unless stand Lloyds and TSB internet

England v New Zeeland (at Old Trailord, 2.0) International matches Scotland v Ausmille (at Parc des Princes, 2.45) ...

Challenham & Gloucemer Cup **Group В**

London Irish v Ortell (2:30 Group C

Group D London Scottish v Cambridge Univ (12.0) Jewson Laague ·

First classion
Hamogate v Otley (2.16)
Leeds v Rugby
London Welsh v Newtoury (2.15)
Mortey v Lydney
Nottingham v Liverpool St Helens

Hinckley v Manchester (2.30).... Lichfield v Kendal (2.30).... mySolinuli (2.30)

Second division South

NORTH: First division: Tynedale v Don-caster, Wigton v Widnes. Watch Langue First division

Abertworn v Liendovery (2.0)
Abertworn v Liendovery (2.0)
Abertworn v Pontypool (2.0)
Bonymaen v South Wates Police (2.0)
Cross Keys v Cearphilly (2.0)
Massleg v Durivent (2.0)
Meethyr v Rummry (2.0)
Treorchy v Newbridge (2.0)
Cardiii Inst v Bisckwood (2.0): Cardiff net v Biackwood (2.0).

SWALEC CUP: Third round: Abercam v Bisengaw; Abercambol v Newtown; Abercynon v Cowbridge; Bala v Moniston; Baddau v Glais; Bedwas v PH Harrien; Butth Welfs v Abergavenny; Bynes v Penygrag; Carmarthan Ahr v Lamharen; Carmarther Quins v Owngwach; Cilynydd v Giffach Goct; Dinas Powys v Aberevon

Second division Sective Rangers v Sundays Well (2 30) Buccaneers v DLSP (2 30)

POOTBALL WELSH CUP: Third round: Briton Ferry v Inter Cable Tel; Caemarton v Cefn Drudes; Caemarthan Town v By; Commist Cusy Normade v Geytre: First Town v Bangor Chy. Haverfootwest County v Extre Viet: Holy-head Hotspur v Cambrian; Knighton v Conwy, List X1 v Berry, Lierweien v Treherde, Newtonin v Treowen Stars, Porthcaw Town v Aberystwyn; Ton Pentre v Mold; TNS v Ruthin, Linwersity Weies Cerdit v Caerans.
PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGURE Brose v Deverorwale; Bucker Thiefle v Rothes; Clochnecuddin v Naim County, Cove v Losslemouth; Eight Kelet; Preserburgh v Forres Mechanics; Huntly v Port William; Peterhead v Wick Academy.

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Asicam v Woolston (2:30);
Dudiey Hill v Leigh Miners (2:30); Look Lane
v Haworth (2:0); Mayfield v Beverley (2:0);
Wigan St Patrick's v Sacrideworth (2:0);
Wigan St Patrick's v Sacrideworth Strating v Resideworth (2:0);
Wigan St Patrick's v Sacrideworth Strating v Resideworth (2:0);
Fostponed: Sgremont v Wigan St Patrick's;
West Hull v Sacdieworth First divisions
East Leads v Eastmoor (2:0); Leigh East v
Outron (2:0); Milliond v Blackbrook (2:30);
Redhill v Milliom (2:20); Stew Cruss
Thornhall (2:0); Norman St. Judes v Moldigreen
(2:0), Postponed: Barrow Island
V Eastmoor. Second division: Hull Dockers v
Crussfields (2:0); London Students v
Dodworth (2:0); Normanion v Dewsbury
Moor (2:0); York Acom v Eccles (2:0)
Postponed: Hull Dockers v Featherstone
America. RUGBY LEAGUE

HOCKEY DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Fremier division: Blockech v Khelse; Covertry and North Werwick; V North Stational: Hamplon-in-Arcten v Ollon and West Warwick, Harborne v Blossomheid; North Notts v Northgrent: Northwester.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

Rhydding: Norton v Southpoirt Shetfield Berikers v Swowell; Timperiey v Durham University Swowell; Timperiey v Durham University.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Cambridge City v Behop's Storfford; Colchester v Sudbury; Ipstrich v Curstyk; Littion Town v Clacton. Peterborough T v Cambridge Univ Premier division B: Ipowich and E: Sutholik v3 hees: Norwich City v Bury St Edmunds; O Southendian v Bedford; Redmidge and Brod v West Herts. Formlond v Dareham Est. SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier League: Anchoriers v Gore Court; Churlester v Winchester, Eastcole v Bedkenham, Herne Bay v Mederhead; Herf Wycombe v Boumemouth; Old Wintgilteas v Richmond; Purley v Farehem; Ramgarha v Turbondge Weels; Wimbledon v Tropans; Wolang v City Of Porsmouth Middiofleries/Bucks and Chora, Astriord v Bracknell; Farrhom Common v Old Kingstomans; Hayes v Weet Hampotiand. Lions v Woltingham; Martow v Newbury; Mitton Keynes v Hendon. P H C Chiswick v City Ol Odord: Proents v Genarde Cross, Richings Park v Amerisham, Sunbury v Steines Kenry/Susseec Ashford v Bedey hwite; B B H C v Brighton, Folkestone v Blackheath, Horsham v Tuise Hill Marden Russets v Worthing, Mediction-Bognor v Brund Strik, Mod Susset v Newfarever; Old Borderlans v Lloyd Benk; Old Holcombalans v Eastbourie; Old Wildermenic Cheam v Epsen; Durknich v Bernes; Goan v Spence Old Walcourbans v Camberloy, Old Cranleighans v Octobro; Coded v Old Georgens, Portsmouth v London Univ

Whitchusch
Woulen's NatTONAL LEAGLE: Primite
division: Hightown v Cititon (al Formby CC,
noon): Ipswich v Stough (al Tuddenham Rd,
noon): Olton v Donosater (2.0): Trojens v
Sutton Coldited (1.30) First division:
Braction v Bedams (noon): Chelmistor v
Centerbury (2.15): Leacester v Bractinel
(12.30): Loughborough Students v Wimbledon (2.30) Second division. Bluetarts v
Ealing (12.30), Poyrator v Loughtonians
(1.0), Sherwood v Aldridge (noon): Wolung
v West Witney (2.0)
REFGIONAL LEAGLESE: Emit: Ashford v v Wast Witney (2 0)
REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Ashlord v Sevenceis, Derehem v Cambs C; Harleston v Ipsanch; St Albans v BSE, Midlands: Beiger v Hampton: Kettening v Fickwick; Leicester v Rift Staffs, Luton v Critester; Welton v Leyland M; Winnington Pir v Sheffield South: Hampsaad v Winchmore Hill: Hossham v Scion: Reading v Handon; Tutse Hill v Maldenhaad, Winchaster v Deltarthem v Emouth; Leiter v Redand Leominister v Tute; Yato v Colveal

WOMEM'S SCOTTER! LINDER-21 DIS-V Convall
WOMEN'S SCOTTEN LINDEN-21 DISTRICTS TOURNAMENT (at Cyclescale
HC, 10 0)
BRITISH AEROSPACE NATIONAL
SCHOOLS CHAMPONE-UPS Under 18:
Midlend (at Wannach University): West (at
Citican College) Under-18: Midlands (at
Aldersley Stadium, Wolverhampton); West
(at Bath University)

WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES LIFEAGUE Provier division: Bed Buces v Robinsons; Chelenham v Meston-Super-Mare, Clevedon v Bristol Univ. Exeler Univ v Taunton Vale; Swansen v Whisthauch

OTHER SPORT BADMINTON: Scottish Open (a) Glascowi BADMINI ON: Sconson Open (at ususgow)
BASKETBALL: Budweiser Langue: Crystal
Palace v Newcastle Eagles (7 30); Worthing
Beens v Manchester Genns (8 0) Uni-ball
Trophy: Wattord Royals v Birminghern
Bullets (7 30); Thames Valley Tigem v
London Leopards (8 0).

BOXING: European flyweight chemp-lonahip: D Gueraut (holder) v A Lowe. (Gun) is Bowles, Manchesteri ICE HOCKEY: Superfeague: Ayr Scottan Eagles v Cardir Devis (6.30). Nottingham Parithers v Newcastle Cobres (7.0); Beang-stoke Bison v Shiffield Steelors (6.30). SMCOKER: Learned Tomorrow

AUGBY UNION ings of 30 unuses stone Tour meich West Hardepool v Tonga XV Group D Blackheath v Richmond (3.0)

AIB League Firm division HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Centerbury v Cennock (et Polo Farm, 1 0); East Grinslead v Beeston (at Sarm Hill, 2.30), Guildford v Doncaster (et Kings Manor School, 12.0); Hounstow v Barhard Tigens (at Duten Meadows, 2.0). Old Loughtoniens v Teodorgton (at Chigweit, 2.0); Reading v Soutingate (at School, 2.0); Plet division; Bluetrants v St Abens (at Historian Sevil School, 2.30). Sourrwise v Stoutport (at lung Edward's Carle' School, Birmingharth, 2.30); Bromley v Havant (at Phote Lesure Carres, 1.0); Firebrands v Oxford Hawks (at Longwood, Bristol, 1.0); Gloucester Cay v Surbion (at Phote Court, 1.30); Hampsteed and West-myster v loca; (at Paddington Recreasion Ground, 12.30); Nariestion Maggiee v Brooklands (at Shortfort Heath, 2.0); Hull v Levest (at Dampark, Road, 2.0). Loughborough Students v Indian Gymhan (at Loughborough Husersy, noon). Loughborough Students v Indian cymi Mana (at Loughborough University, noon), Sheffield v Chelmstord (at Abbeydale Park, 230); Warnington v Ordord University (al Penketh County School, 130)

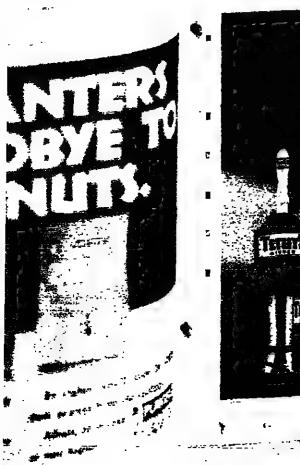
OTHER SPORT BADMINTON: Scotish Open (at Glasgow).

BASICTEALL: Bushreim: Laegue: London
Towers v Sheffleid Sharks (6 30). Uni-bad
Trophy: Chester Jets v Derby Storm (5 30);
Washord Royals v Worthing Royals (6 30)
ICE HOCKEY: Superfeegue: Sheffleid
Steelers v Cardiff Devils (6 30). Marchester
Storm v Newcastle Cobres (6 0), Bracineil
Bees v Naturgham Parthers (6 0).

MOTOR RALLYING: Network O RAC Rafly
(first day: Cheltenham-Donangton-CheltenNam).

SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK champ-

SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK champ lonship (at Preston)







Or Royal ready to justify support of Pipe's team

AT POND HOUSE, the Sornerset nerve centre of champion jumps trainer Martin Pipe. they like to play their cards close to their chest. After all. loose talk can cost money - in the shape of reduced odds for fancied runners.

However, ever since the bookmakers had the impertinence on Monday to offer 9-2 against Or Royal for the First National Bank Chase, Pond House regulars have filled their boots, with the normal veil of secrecy having been lifted about the feature race at Ascot today. Asked for a word about the chances of last season's Arkie Chase winner yesterday, Pipe was succinct. A word," he said. "Wins".

David Johnson, who paid Fr660,000 (£82,500) for the French import, was more loquacious, but no less confident. "The horse is extremely well. Tony [McCoy] has been down four or live times to school him and he has been brilliant. The rain will be in his favour and there is a lot of confidence behind the horse. There will be some very long faces at Pond House if he gets

"We hope he is a Queen Mother Champion Chase horse, in which case he would need to win. Tony won't hear of him getting beaten," the owner added. Johnson has put his money where his mouth is with a sizeable bet at 9-2.

In a race which has a distinctly lopsided look - with a stone separating the top four horses from the rest of the field - the form book and the way the race will be run suggests the confidence is not mis-

With confirmed front runners such as Jeffell and Stately Home in the field, there will be



bags of pace, which will suit Or Royal who is sure to be be held up for a late run. When he was beaten over course and distance 11 months ago by Simply Dashing (receiving 3lb), McCoy blamed himself for striking the front too soon.

Simply Dashing, who headed the ante-post market earlier in the week, bails from the inform Tim Easterby yard, but the trainer is on record as saying his stable star is best on good, fast ground, After more than an inch of rain inside the past 72 hours, the going is anything but. Similar ground worries will reduce confidence in the Amanda Perrett-trained Fine Thyne.

winner of the Tripleprint Novices' Chase at

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: AARDWOLF (1.20 Ascot) Next best: Or Royal (2.30 Ascot)

Chris McGrath landed a near 19-1

came in for significant support yesterday and Arthur Moore's raiders always deserve respect. However, form lines involving Celibate and Flying Instructor (who were further behind Or Royal in the Arkle Chase) suggest Jeffell is inferior to Pipe's runner.

Wild West Wind, the apple of Terry Biddlecombe's eye, looks more of a three-miler and will benefit from this run. while Frazer Island looks outclassed. Redeemyourself, without a run since winning his first race over fences more than a year ago, looks well treated at the weights and hails from Josh Gifford's inform yard. But lack of experience is a big worry.

The main threat to Or Royal is likely to come from Around The Gale, a confirmed mud lover, who will relish conditions underfoot and is in top form for his seasonal reappearance, "Every drop of rain will help us," David Gandolfo. the trainer of the lightly weighted six-year-old, said yesterday. "He's well and has done a lot of work and I certainly can't grumble about

his weight." However, with Or Royal equally at home on the prevailing ground and Pipe's string in tip-top form, the mood within Pond House is infectious and he can prevail. Away from the gaze of the

television cameras, all eyes will be on Boardroom Shuffle. who makes his eagerly awaited chasing debut in the Hurst Park Novices' Chase (3.05) in a later race at Ascot. A clear round of jumping should see him win.

Meanwhile, at Aintree (2.45) the form of Noisy Miner's recent Chepstow victory is working out particularly well and he can follow up for David Nicholson.



هكذا من رلامل

Symbol Of Success leads Aller Moor on his way to victory in the British Aerospace Novices' Handicap Chase at Ascot yesterday

Pridwell profits from positive thinking

By CHRIS McGrath

1T IS, presumably, a measure of the frivolous nature of their pastime that racing people refer to a horse with a resentful attitude to the sport as "a thinker" - a horse, that is, with better things to worry about, with too much sense to waste his energy on a race. Few have been invested with so many intellectual qualities as Pridwell, who all but refused to start on a couple of occasions last autumn, Martin Pine. his trainer, even has a cartoon of Pridwell as Rodin's Thinker hanging on his loo wall.

At Ascot yesterday, however, came further evidence that he is becoming less and less reflective. Those brave enough to support him to complete a treble in the Coopers & Lybrand Ascot Hurdle will soon be lauding

him as thoroughly stupid. He has in his time finished third in a Champion Hurdle, and has yet to Pipe said. "But he is really on song come off the bridle to win £40,000 in three races this season. The horse he thrashed at Wincanton, Mr Percy, had subsequently emerged to run away with the most competitive hurdle race of the season so far, at Cheltenham last weekend.

Bookmakers were even trying to interest people in quotes for the Champion Hurdle - Coral offers 25-1 - after yesterday's arrogant performance by horse and jockey — Tony McCoy tormenting Carl Liewellyn on the industrious Ocean Hawk with long, sympathetic looks as they cruised by in the straight. For all that, esterday's race was slowly run and Pridwell will never have the pace back at two miles to win a Champion. But he's some machine on easy ground. "It has sometimes seemed

though he has got too many A levels,"

now and thoroughly enjoying him-self. I don't know how we've done it, though it could be something to do with the fact that Donna, who looks after him at home, has got married since last season."

McCoy completed a double with a sound tactical ride on Ela Agapi Mou in the concluding Punch Bowl Handicap Hurdle, which was run so slowly that one looked in vain for a hearse. Also in form was Norman Williamson, his flair undiminished by the uncharacteristic blunder that caused him such humiliation at Leicester on Monday (when given a 14-day suspension for easing up, to be caught close home).

He plucked the Gerrard Group Handicap Chase out of the fire on Leotard, who seemed to have lost the initiative to Arctic Kinsman on the home turn. But he was driven out

SIS

over the last two to beat the grey six lengths, becoming another feather in the cap of Venetia Williams. "Norman said he ran in snatches and nothing was happening at the bend," the trainer said.

Williamson had earlier helped someone else make a better end to the week than he had a beginning. getting Brackenheath home in the Racing Channel Novices' Hurdle for Gardie Grissell. The trainer, after three sleepless nights, has decided not to bother with an appeal against the £500 fine he was given under the "non-triers" rule at Plumpton on Monday - which he considers a slur

on his name. Williamson had replaced Barry Fenton, who fell heavily from Brackenheath at the same meeting and has suffering from a sore back since. No wonder some horses think it all too silly.

ASCOT

12,45 Zarajaska

1.55 Real Estate

2.30 FINE THYNE (nep) 3.05 Paardmon Shuff

Timekeeper's top rating: 1.55 MONARCH'S PURSUIT.

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES (CHASE COURSE), SOFT (HURDLES)

12.45 HOLLOWAYS GATE NOVICES HURDLE (E3.501: 2m 110yd) (10 rumers)

FORM FOCUS

Accur (2m 110nd, good) with Eta-Me-Mou (3th worse off) 321 6th Between to besten a distance 9th of 11 to Queen Of Scatters in movice hundle at Sandown (2m 110nd good to table). Buzzantis Bettbuoy, this performer at up to a finite on the Flat in 1993 but has not run since. Fullyaman Creat useful stayer on Flat in 1996 providing Frazine Eletion with the final leg of his Accort seven down Off course for 15 months. Zaratassia, very smart performer to the Flat winning the Sensbrough States at Royal Accord (1m 4t) and Off offerior Cup at haycord. Personally high-class recruit to hundring Zaymat pulled up in nance hundle at Energy (2m if 1 10pd, good to soft). Royal Cestion, fair performer at up to 1m on Flat. PUNKAH is best of those with expenence while Zarataska has reportedly schooled well-

1998. RESIST THE FORCE 8-11-3 P Hote (5-1) J Gifford 9 ran

1.20 GARDNER MERCHANT HANDICAP CHASE

301 12 COULTOR 322 BF C F.G 5) 43 9 Querton 0 (3rendon 19-12-C)
114PP-3 DOXTRA DOVE 13 (D.F Q.S.) (Derto Lighting Singertin A 4-on 19-13-C)
123 4-0 COOL (DAWN 14 (D.F.G.S.) (Hon Must 0 Handers) A Albert 5-10-C)
123 4-0 COOL (DAWN 14 (D.F.G.S.) (Hon Must 0 Handers) A Albert 5-10-C)
123 5-7 ARRIVATOR 13 (D.G.S.) (Hon Must 0 Handers) A File 5-10-C (Ballagher 57-3332 G.E.S.) (14 (F.G.S.) (0 rany) P F Webber 9-12 G ... A Magnare Long handcap Gerta Dave 9-11 Stoll Erren 9-8, Amberil 9-7, Glerott 9-4 환기대표 3-4 Appart* 11-4 Copton, 3-1 Glanet, 4-1 Decira Dave, 18-1 Carl Coun

FORM FOCUS

Counton 2nd 3nd of 6 to Assalom's Lady in grade if handrage chase at Eveler (2m 11 110yd, good to soft). Destina Dove bealen a distance and of 4 to Dange Saby of handrage chase at Sandram 110yd, good to lamb with Asardwolf (10th wares of) fell (Bernot 77 2nd of 9 to Longly Angitt in handrage chase at Wingaritin (3m 11 110yd, good) with Cool Dawn (5th being) off 471 7th AARDWOLF see leading when falling at Sandown last time and can make amend:

1998, MICHCALLOCH 7-11-4 & Durantody revens 3 feet a 1973 2 red

1.55 FI	FTY YEARS OF TUMEFORM AURELIUS OVICES HURDLE (3-Y-0: £4.902 2m 110yd) (11 nunr	BBC	1
70.1 2225 70.1 2225 70.7 4 70.7 4 70.7 11 70.7	ESYMPLES 17 O.G., Nor. S. Northergton, T. Lee 11-7 TOM TALLOR 13 O.G. (A. A. Pesternton) P. Des Million DONT FOOL (M. DISSE (M.) S. Cholo P. Marroy, 11-3 LE DE LEBRATE T. (Surround Raboty, P. O. Sulman 11-3 PROUS 377 (F. M. Singer Late & Heicher) (Baldon) 11-3 PROM (STATE 37 (RP) PM.; (Model O' Edyston 11-3 WESLEY'S LAD 477 (B. Walsarre, D. Burroun) (11-3)	9 Dermondy A P McCov P Holler G Stanton M A Forman B Portel A Margan O J Buschell A Thoman W Storaton W Storaton	80 112 97 80

FORM FOCUS

Monarch's Pursuit bear Amings need in 7-numer grade it inquire hurdle at Wethertry (2m, good to firm). Levitarius teat derylligm 51 in 15 numer nounce hurdle at Haydoch (2m, good) with 38 tith 1 num Pation beal fixal 31 in 7-numer nounce hurdle at Sondown (2m 110yd good) the De Libratio let it in nounce hundle at Windows (2m 110 good to firm) previously 111 and 3 to 115 miles on First Read Estate 111 4th of 9 to Sound Appeal 4th access of an incure hundle at Kernston (2m 10m good). Wesley's Lad underzies slayer on the First Sound Appeal area Myster Old in 6-numer novice hundle at Access (2m 110yd good) with Read Estate (4th before off) 111 4th Aquantis 51 2md of 8 to Supply And Demand in Joy novice hurdle at Wethertry (2m 110yd good). Selent Victor 3md of 9 to Levil Discord in nounce hundle at Wethertry (2m 100yd good). Selent Victor (2m 100yd good) in now the attack to cover one a prositive nounce hundle at Wethertry (2m 100yd good). MONARCH'S PURSUAT has taken well to hundling and may be able to exercisme a penalty

2.30 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BOLD CUP CHASE (Limited handicap: £25,840, 2m 3f 110yd) (11 numers)

3139-04 GREFHEACK 21 (CD F.0.5) (J. Jacon) Probate 6-10-8 ... L. Harvey
1114F-1 FRE THYNE 36 (F.0.5) (P. Wegand) Mrs. A Perrat 8-10-7 ... MA Pitzgrafil
12122-AROUND THE GALE 24'5 (Bf.5) (T. Whitely) D Gundato 6-10-7 ... A bispane
7.3114- WILD WEST WIND 254 (G.5) (Lord Vester) Miss H kinght 7-10-5 ... J. F Tally
122.U1-1 FRAZER ISLAND 32 (D.F.G.3) (bit 8 Alexandrin 19 Frame 6-10-4 ... A 6pps (5)
1911/- REDEBINYOURSEL 374 (G.5) (dic. 7 Brown) J Gifford 8-10-3 ... P Hide
11P-223 MONICS SOHAM 14 (G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 9-10-3 ... B Wynne

Long handicate, Redestinourset 9-13, Mortic Schlam 9-11

BETTING: 5-2 Simply Destring, 11-4 Or Royal 8-1 Jellett, 8-1 Around The Sale, Fragur Island: 18-1 Fine Thyric, Radientrycursel 16-1 Others. 1996: STRONG PROMISE 5-19-8 % Goule (11-8 tar) 6 Hubbard 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

Simply Dashing best Sener El Betrutt 151 in 3-numer handicap
class at Wetherby (2m 41 10)rd, good to farm) Or Royal 6341 3nd
of 10 to Sparty Cayle in chase at Chebertum (2m 51, good) with
Whit Wast Wind (16th better of) 201 4th and Stately Horns (1fth better off) 50 6th Stately Horns
141 last of 3 to Super Tactles in handicap there at Newbury (2m 41, good) of firm) Jerfell beal
Ceithafe 144 in 8-numer grade II novice chase at Punchestown (2m, good) Greenback 81 4th of 6
to Nathramain in handicap handle at Accol (2m 110yd, good), previously 35 8th of 9 to Pying Fiddler
in handicap handle at Kempton (2m 51 100yd, good), previously 35 8th of 9 to Pying Fiddler
in handicap handle at Kempton (2m 51 100yd, good), previously 35 8th of 9 to Pying Fiddler
in handicap thase at Stratford (2m 51 110yd, good), previously 35 8th of 9 to Tying Fiddler
in handicap thase at Stratford (2m 51 110yd, good), previously 32 and of 6 to Land Aka
in grade II nonce chase at Kempton (2m 41 110yd, good) to soft) mits Greenback (6th better off) 181
3rd, fine Thyne (4th better off) 24 4th and Stately Horns (9th worse off) pulled up Frazer Island
beat Marison County (3) in 7-numer nowce chase at Newbury (2m 31 10yd, good), etc. level Monkes Sottem; 191
3rd of 7 to Callisce Bay in handicap chase at Unicepter (2m 51 soft).

OR ROYAL crowded Immael a usabild performer has sessor and car, level popularization.

OR ROYAL proved termed a ucable performer but season and car leap progression

3.05 HURST PARK NOVICES CHASE

11111 BOARDROOM SHIFFLE 280 (D.F.S.S.) (A Mexic) (J. S. Mart 8-01-2 P. Mide 1200-12 CHEFS SONG 14 (BF.D.F.G. Mr.: A Device (S. Dom. 1-11-3 R. Dismoody 1313) DONTULAVENHENEST & O.G.S. (Y. Shore, R. G.D.C. 7-11-2 R. Dismoody 600-40-1 GROUND MILT IS (D.F.S.) (Mr. F. Hanney P. B.J.Mar. 7-10-3 R. Pracel 119 - 21214- WADE ROAD 256 (D.F.S.) (Ean Calicpen Mexic 4 Mount 6-11-2 d. F. Timey BETTING: Event Southern Shather, 5-2 Mode Road, 2-4 Chair 5 Song 3-4 Species for 1944 Commons 1996 OH SO RISKY 9-11-3 Pinches (3-4-) C Souther 4 mm

FORM FOCUS

Boardroom Shuffle basi Vigit, Mais 21c. in 8-namer grade 4 nonce hardle at Chandra furn 4: 116,45 good to activ. Other's Song neck 2nd of 4 to Marchy Martin or nonce classe at Chellenham (2m good to activ. Dondsavethenest basis sen un pare 1 in 5-namer chance classe at 1110yd good to activ. Ground Mat basi American 9 in 8-source rounds others 2 beste (2m 11110yd good to activ.) Wade Road 15) 4th of 16 to Sazdon Leader in grade 1 namer burgle at Chelenham (2m 110yd good to famil) CHIEF'S SONG can gut his expenence to good use against the smart Boestissom Statile

3.40 LION GATE HANDICAP HURDLE

(20,042 Stri) to triumona)

601 4 11112 COUCHANT 28 REDERG (Tellant Assorp Militer (*1)0 A P Military 130

602 01144-0 HABE DERRIGG 7 (CD,6,6) Abt. / Richards (1) Follant (*1)10 2 Gallette (*1) 136

903 0003-25 08FLIENGE FEBRER 3 IST 1456 C Sentency 2 Se 4-145 S P Follant (*1)

904 521-72 CLEFOR SET 435 (RESPER 5) CORE (Febrer 4) 125 C Follant (*1)2

905 112221 HABE OF OUR FATHER 14 (Fig. 7) Notice (*1)2

112221 HABE OF OUR FATHER 14 (Fig. 7) Notice (*1)2

3 April 19 BETTING: 3-4 Courses 3-1 Name Of the Father 7-0 Have Dennig on series Patter 13-2 Dinter Set 8-1 Petalogical 1996 OLYMPIAN 9-10-7 N A Poperad (14-11), Acrost 4 to

FORM FOCUS

Recent (In), goods thave Demany In: The 6" 72 in Gyant on harding a thinker (In), goods thave Demany In: The 6" 72 in Gyant on hardings burdle at Chellenten (In) 2 goods tellbergue Pedler beaten a distance 8th of 6 to Franchish on handings made at Personnia 72 in good to sufficient previously 289 2nd of 5 to Total Force or handings through at Pedlera 72 in Gyant to sufficient SCF 17 and of 6 to Father Sky to notice chase at thereton About 200 CF could be for the control of the Country NAME OF OUR FATHER seems to timbe on racing and can gap be tourth are of the seaso

COURSE SPECIALISTS

INVITERS	ands.	1215		STATE 15	141.121.	Fass	- 5
5 DGa	4	16	250	L Aspet	3	7	-23
M Pipe	17	70	343	A P RECED	21		27.3
9 Micholson	311	€7	23.9	≥ Framen	3	12	25.0
1 Baiding	4	ia	22.2	1 Treet	- j	Ğ.	158
ALC: H Family	5	23	217	R Duracces	4.7		16.3
11 Tenchan-Denes	19	99	194	P Hoper	- 6	41	140
6 Habbard	4	21	138	A FREEZENCE	17	115	144

Akehurst makes winning start from father's yard

mark at the first time of asking since taking over the reins at the Epsom yard when OK Babe won at Wolverhampton yesterday.

Akehurst expressed himself as "absolutely delighted" after winning the BSS as well."

and UK Quality Valves & Pipeline South Equipment Selling Stakes. I know it was with a £4,000 fine after a prolonged

subsequent auction.

"She only cost me 1,300 guineas as a yearling at Newmarket. so this was quite a jump," he added. "Still, the owners are delighted and my father is very pleased

Southwell racecourse was yesterday hit

JOHN AKEHURST, whose father, Reg. saddled a winner at Lingfield earlier this work with his final runner, got off the saddled a winner at Lingfield earlier this somewhere. The said, Akehurst had to go to start somewhere. The said, Akehurst had to go to start somewhere. The said, Akehurst had to go to start somewhere the said, Akehurst had to go to start somewhere. The said, Akehurst had to go to start somewhere the said, Akehurst had to go to start somewhere. The said, Akehurst had to go to start somewhere the said, Akehurst had to go to start somewhere. The said, Akehurst had to go to start somewhere the said arrangements. have been taking place since the death of Richard Davis in a fall at a National Hunt fixture at the course last year. However this inquiry did not concern the circumstances then, but were concerned with two Jackey Club inspections of the course in August and September of last

2.45 River Dawn

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

Raccard number: So-logore form (F — left P — polled up: U — inscaled nature B — investit down. S — singed up: R — related. D — larm, teach flows: I have a since basis colleg. F \hat{A} flot \hat{B} — bilities, V — obser H — investigation where C — course water D — distance where C — occurse and disbases. Tradeoper's speed reline.

GOWG: GOOD

1.05 TOTE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

BBC1 | 122133 BFAMAR EBERRY 22 (N.F.S.S.) (Nampurs Russing) Mrs. S. Smith. 8-11-19 | R. Smith. 122 | 2 | 211-19 | STORAM RUM 7 (F.G.) (Mrs. P. Machells 7-11-4 | ... | T. J. Marphy 119 | 3 | 40-3021 | STANMORE 25 (S) (Natabas Bookhaby) C. Brooks 5-11-4 | ... | ... | G. Mander 124 | 5561-51 | NGEP Mrs. H. Margo 14 (D.F.S.S.) (*Pror) P. Modell B-10-13 | ... | G. Mander 124 | 5561-51 | NGEP Mrs. H. Margo 14 (D.F.S.S.) (*Pror) P. Modell B-10-13 | ... | C. Mander 14-14 | ... | ... | G. Mander 14-14 | ... | ... | G. Mander 14-14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ...

1998 NO EXPRESS AND PAGE

FORM FOCUS

Branchieberry d'al 3rd of 9 to Edgemont Prince in handicap chase d'Bangar (2m et 110pd. good). Storm Rain lell in nonce chase at Bangar (2m et 110pd. good). Storm Rain lell in nonce chase at Cellertean (2m et 110pd. good). previously beal Moreno 111 in 5-insiner nonce handicap chase at Cheltertean (2m et 110pd. good). Resp Me In Mind 781 5th of 7 to Platitiem Startight or goad to insinere chase at Cheltertean (2m et 110pd. good). Keep Me In Mind 781 5th of 7 to Platitiem Startight or goad to insinere chase at Cheptow (2m et 110pd. good to soit). Westernot Mil 191 5th of 8 to Crantice Boulevard in Enablacy handle at Startight (2m et 3rd). Good). Holders Hill beat The Heat Walt. 1'41 in 11-inner invoice tracking chase at Heatom (2m 110pd. good to first). Brategium Chures 2'al 3rd of 9 to Wise Karg et ear local halle 0-110 at Newtony (2m 110pd. good). Interneturing reforced to race at Newtony handle at Bangor (2m 11, good).

LEEP ME IN MIND) lock score and will be sealed by the solitich around.

ILEP ME IN MINE) has scape and will be swied by the solich ground

1.35 STANLEY LEISURE CHILDREN IN NEED HANDICAP HURDLE (\$10.406 2m 110yd) (7 numers)

| 181-22| STAR | APPRET | 73 (B.D.F.G.S) | P. Jonets | N | T. Dames | 7-12-0 | Mr. S. Dames | (7) | 744 | 12127-0 | 1204-10 | 6 (D.C.S) | 0 (T. S. Dames | 1 (D.C. S. D.T. Dam BETTING 11-4 Gard Vites, 3-1 Chap-Yo 9-7 Esty Lathning 6-1 Sty Market, Plymy Dayle, 8-1 Galdengo 14-1 Market.

1996, TOM BROOK 6-11-0 II; Kill-smette (7-2; J (2004) Joseph 6 cm

FORM FOCUS

Star Market beat Jacons of in 7-come bandican hundle at Startes can 31 good) Chai-Yo unscaled oder in handican hundle at Chedenians (2m 11/by good) Good Yibes beat Abstany 2 in 6-namer handican hundle at Westerfy (2m good in fam) Easy Listenry based Globe Romer by in 5-namer handican hundle at Unacides (2m, colin; perweasty heat Ecoled 21 in 7-namer handican fractile at Hending (2m 11 good) with Guidning (1 till bester cil) 111 and Finny Engle bed Reason Flight 24th in 3-namer handican hundle at Sandom (2m good to finn) hhalid 211 6th of 7 to Patter's Gale in handican hundle at Chepishon (2m 110) good to soil. GOOD VIEES is a progressive sort and wern a strong space of Mediciny

2.10 CROWTHER HOMES BECHER CHASE

(Handicap: £24,694, 3m 31 Grand Hakonal course) (12 numers) GEORY EZ-4, D94. SITE ST GEORGE MERCHEN CONSTSE) [12 NUMBERS]

550.32 * MORRE MERCHEN SAN COLF. GEORGE MERCHEN ST T-LOWER MERCHEN ST T-100 C. Minathen ST Minathen ST Minathen ST T-100 C. Minathen ST

BETTAIC 11-4 Scients Strong 5-1 Julian. 6-1 Young Health: 7-1 Saulies, 6-1 Court Mesons, Strontock 1996 INTO THE RED 12-10-0 A Delaw (9-2) We M Pagety & red

FORM FOCUS:

Young Huster 13:1 2nd at 8 in this The Rad in tagrifore place at Anothe (Sin 31, good) Court Mission) 161 2nd of 5 to Hellerick in another Sin 31, good) Court Mission) 161 2nd of 5 to Hellerick in another Strong west 2nd of 5 to Sinth Royal on basistance states at Mathedby (3m 11, good) with Vallant Warmer (3b better off) a declarace 4th Similarities 41 4th of 8 to Bestone in bandicap charts at 3 4 5 th 10 4 to 8 to Bestone in bandicap charts at 3 4 5 th 10 4 to 8 to Bestone in bandicap charts at 6 similarity of 3m 11 good) with Vallant Warmer (3m 10 better off) 641 flim. Dalyns Boy 381 fish of 17 to Bestone thing in Scotlish Grant Mathed (3b better off) 641 flim. Dalyns Boy 381 fish of 17 to Bestone thing in Scotlish Grant Mathed (3b better off) pulled up Justica fell in bandicap chart at 8 september 11 good) with Stammarket (3b better off) pulled up Justica fell in bandicap chart at 8 september 12 good) with Stammarket (3b better off) pulled up Justica fell in bandicap chart at 8 september 12 good in bandicap chart at 8 september 12 good in bandicap chart at 8 september 13 september 14 september 14 september 14 september 15 septe

2.45 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier £3,630: 2m 4f) (5 numers)

NOISY MOVER 14 (D.F.S.S) (Mrs BETTIME: 4-7 Motor Miner, 5-4 Rose Davis, 6-1 Bresson, 10-1 Sen Chemisters, 12-1 Legisthern Textus.

Notey Miner best Edmoret reck in 8-currer novice hardle at the control of the con

MONSY MEMBER's form has received a boost and he can go on from his Chapston win

3.15 SEFTON HANDICAP CHASE

126-90-9 PNK GN 14 (F.S.S.) (Mrs M Pannas) M Hammond (0-11-10 C Borner (3) 126
51242-2 THE CARPOT MAN 14 (6) (Mrs.) Windowsth 9 Windowsth 9-11-10 C McPasl (7) 129
F1023- WITH SMPINITY 135 (BF,S.S) (6 Mizel) P Michalls 8-11-10 J Tizzard (8) 128
535248- ALY OALEY 204 (BF,F.S.S), (M Total) P Michalls 8-11-10 J Tizzard (8) (7) 128
3127-41 MICH SMPINITY 15 (BF,S.S) (C Mizel) A Cartel 7-11-3 A P Michally (7) 120
535249- GLEV MICHALLY (F,G.S) (C Mizel) A Cartel 7-11-3 A P Michally (7) 120
535249- GLEV MICHALLY (F,G.S) (L Gascalat) M Countes 12-10-4 Miles M Counte (7) 138 BETTING: 5-2 The Carrol Man, 3-1 With Impunity, 7-2 Inch Expense, 4-5 Plapinsk Lad, 13-2 Aly Delay, 7-1 Plat Gia, 20-1 Glan Mange.

Pink 6th pulled up in handloop chase at Newcastle (3m 6t, good to firm); previously distance 14th of 36 to Lord Syllene in Grand Mational here at Aintree (4m 4t, good). The Count Man 14t 2nd of 7 to Prate 8ox in handloop chase at Chepstow (2m 31 110yd, good to soft) with Sien Mirage (15th better of) 221 5th. With Ingoundry 131 and of 7 to Prate 9ox in chase at Utbroeles (2m 5t, good to soft), Ally Daley brought down in handloop chase at Sedgefield (2m 5t, good to firm), previously 9941 4th of 20 to Bells Life in handloop chase at Ludlow (2m 4t, good to firm). Haptack Lad 32 6th of 10 to Scoresheet in handloop chase at Wincanton (2m 5t, good).

3.50 NORTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICES HURDLE

THE CARRIOT MAIN is sure to strip filter than at Chepstow and looks well tracted

1990: TREMENDESTO 6-10-12 A Dobbin (4-1) J H Wilson 10 ran

FORM: FOCUS: Chehenham (2m 5f, pood to firm) Nemocodal best As You Like B 5f on 19-rusiner novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 11 110yd, and of 21 to Prince Darde is made in hurdle at Bangor (2m 11, good), Last Edition 2 in Mest Wanted is novice hurdle at Ketso (2m 110yd, good). NAMIOODAL was deeply empressive at Market Reser and this us his for the labing

COURSE SPECIALISTS THAINERS Wites River

Alabang on sick list

ALABANG misses today's Stanley Leisure Children In Need Handicap Hurdle at Aintree. Maurice Camacho, the gelding's trainer, was forced to withdraw the gelding yesterday. Susan Camacho, the trainer's wife, said: "Alabang didn't work so well as usual on Wednesday and the vet scoped him. He advised us

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Catterick (first rece, 12.40), Luciow (12.50), Southwell (AW, 1.00) TUESDAY: Huntingdon (C4, 1,10), Worcester (C4, 1,25), Lingfield Park (AW, 1,05)

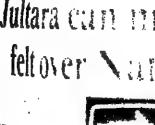
WEDNESDAY: Chepstow (1.20), Hexham (1.00), Windsor (1.10). THURSDAY: Carlisle (1.00), Tourston FRIDAY: Bengor (1.20), Newbury (1.00), Lingfield Park (AW, 1.10). SATURDAY: Haydock Park (1.05), Newbury (BBC, 12.45), Newcastie (C4, 12.10), Warenck (12.30), Wolver-trampton (AW, 7.00).

Flat meetings in bold ...



Jultara eun m

150







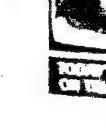


CO.

 $b_{i,j+1}$ 2.1

Mary.

iol Ever



RESULTS PROPERTY.

The thing about meeting Mark Phillips is that it

brings you straight into a

don't-mention-the-war situation. I know I'm not going to memion That Family, but how can

It is a delicate piece of social

manoeuvring and the enquente books don't help you a bir. Which means that there is always a

wariness about Phillips. It is something that everybody who meets him must deal with and naturally, and rightly, that counts

I have known many a horse with the same kind of air about him:

big, strapping fellows of imposing presence and massive self-confi-

dence, but who are always likely to spook at anything they take a dislike to. Phillips is filled with

conversational spookiness; no

doubt a defensive reaction that comes not from his nature, but

from hard-won experience. Who could blame him? There

came a period in two or three

horse-filled days with Phillips, when the horse I had been loaned,

a dominant type who insisted on being at the front, had to walk

alongside the lead horse, which

was ridden, of course, by Phillips,

Horsey enquette demands a little,

but not too much chat at such a

point. So I made an amiable

remark about the pleasures of a young family — and at once prompted that infinitesimal spook,

that sampling of every remark for

I followed with a joke about my own domestic life — this is just

small talk, Mark, honest - and

the tiny point of tension-was resolved and he made a joke of his own. Just two chaps on horses, talking about things such as life and horses. Life should be file

Phillips has a strange facial tic.

It may be physiologically-based,

for all I know, but it is utterly

characteristic of the man, nonethe-

less. His eyes half close and stay that way — half-blinked, ungiving, self-protecting. It is a slightly

disturbing expression. You suspect that he has grown to require more personal space than most.

the thing about that kind of fame is

that it leaves you typecast.

intrusiveness or impertinence.

I make him know I know?

double for a journalist.

Changing the rein

In his undemonstrative way, Captain

Mark Phillips has become a world expert

Phillips with one of his pupils at Ashford Castle in County Mayo

Talking

horse

horse into a can-

ter, allowing him his preference for

fast and purpose-ful work, rolling

into a fine, swift rhythm. Jumps

taken as part of the whole rolling

swing of the thing,

nothing to make a

drama about.

"Jumping is the art of doing noth-ing," Phillips had said at one stage. Doing nothing, or at least little, !

burnt up the

trolled purpose, halted and waited

for the rest. The

horse and his rid-

er were, I fear,

rather puffed up

about it all, but it

was the teacher who had the real

reason to puff himself up.

And all around were fellow

pupils thinking much the same

thing. One woman had never

jumped in her life and was confidently tackling chunky obsta-

cles. Every rider was filled with the

The fact is that Philips is not just a born horseman. He is also a born

teacher. Teaching is his joy, his special delight, his purpose. Many

will recall his inarticulate, fish-out-

of-water pronouncements during

buzz of achievement.



: thinking

Suppose 1

\$ 333 = in the same

ALBERTALES LINES . and the second s

with the life.

-The same

2.50; E1.80; E1.90; E1.90; E1.80 9.40 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Ba Agent Mour (A PMCCOy, 9-4), 2, Princetu (2-1 fav); 3, Yel Again (9-2) 5 ran. 154, St. G. L. Moore. Tote: 52.00; E1.10; E1.60; DF; E3.00; CSF; E6.54. Jackpot: £13,814.20. - 10 W

Placepoit \$8.90 Quadpoit \$5.00

Aintree · · · Golog: good (good to soft in places) 1.10 (2m 4) hole) 1, Scotton Green (7 McGrath, 3-1 (1-br); 2, China King (4-1); 3, Leep in The Dark (14-1), Miles Stan 3-1 (-law, 7 pm; 4), 17, 1 Easterby, Total 23,60; 52 00, 52 10 DF 25,60, CSF; £11,77.

2.20 (2m 41 ch) 1. Pennybridge (M A Fizgerald, 7-1): 2, Monymen (6-1): 3, Bernsgeere Boy (6-2) Highbeath (5th) 7-2 (ev. 9 ran. 9, sh hd. Ferguson (re). Tota 216.40; 23.60, £1.90, £1.60 DF £33.10 Tito: £48.50. CSF: £43.86. Tricest: £190.72.

2.50 (2m 110yd hole) 1, Silly Money (R Garrity, 10-11 fay); 2, Rothari (8-1); 3, Skram (9-2), 6 an. 4l, 9l, T Eacterby, Tote: 21.60; 21.40, 21.90, DF: 56.80, CSF

17.65
3.20 (2m 4(ch) 1, Edehwels Du Moutin (P Carberry, 1-5 isw); 2, Dandis imp (5-1). Only two tinished: 3 ran. NR: Into The Swing Dist. 6 Richards. Tote: £1.30. DF: £1.10. CSF: £1.50.
3.50 (2m 110)d list) 1, Justin Mac (P Carberry, 11-4 isw); 2, Skender A Aram (3-1); 3, Buckeloon (33-1). 8 ran. NR: Ruisety Lody. 7, 2s. J Rizgerald. Tote: £3.20; £1.70; £1.30; £7.70. DF; £4.60. Tho: £0.40 CSF: £10.12.

Placepot £17.90 Quadpot \$6.50.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

12:50 (6l) 1, The Happy Fox (1. Newton, 10-11 fav); 2, Sea-Deer (6-2); 3, Bold Artstocrat (12-1), 12 ran, NR; Salty Behaviour, Hd. 2, B Mckkehon, Tote: 19:0; c1 10, c1.80, c3.00. OF £3:20. Trio: e8:00. CSF £2:86. 1.20 (75 1, No Grousing (L Chemock, 4.5 | Placepot: £364.90 | favi: 2, Mutastawar (8-1); 3, Violetie Sebo | Quadpot: £165.10.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS 20-1). 9 ran. Hd 8. P Haslam. Tota: £1.60; £1.10, £2.80, £2.40. DF: £8.10. Tdo: £26.10. CSF: £7.18.
1.55 (6) 1, Elis Hope (Dean McKeown, 8-1); 2, U-No-Harry (16-1), 3, River Ensign (12-1). Ultra Beet 4-1 lev 12 ran. NR: Muncipal Gin 1141, hd, N Brisker, Tota: £10.80; £2.10, £4.30, £2.60. DF: £101.50. CSF: £117.61. Tno: \$357.60 (parl won. Pool of £205.55 carried forward to 2.30 Ascot today)

Ascot today)
2.30 (7f) 1, Pas De Mamoires (D Biggs, Evens tay, 2, Critical Air (3-1); 3, Summer Deal (10-1); 12 ran. 4, 1%1. M Tompkins. Tote: £1.90, £1.40, £2.90, DF: £4.10, Tric: £16.50, CSF: £4.63, Tricast. £56.52

25.52
9.00 (7) 1, Caudillo (J Quinn, 8-1); 2. Heathyards Lady (16-1); 3. Be Warned (7-1). Mybodys (4th) 3-1 fav. 11 ran. NR: Permiter MJ, rik Mrs. P Dutlett. Toler: \$13.20; \$3.60, \$3.00. \$1.60 DF \$274.60. Thos: \$252.50. CSF: \$128.50. Thosat: \$290.02

280 (6) 1, Ok Bebe (D Biggs, 4-1); 2, Pip's Addition (7-1), 3, Teepley Girl (16-1). The Robe (6th) 2-1 fav. 13 ran. 3, 2, J Alcehurs, 10ne; 23.60, 6:1 30, 6:30, 6:510. DF: £12.10, Trio. £255, 10, CSF; 237.12 4.00 (1m 48) 1, Mr Fortywinks (Mass Diana Jones, 5-1), 2. Lucky Bugonaz (12-1), 3, Montecasto (4-6 lav), 12 ran, 91, hd. J Eyre Tote: £5,40; £1 40, £3 10, £1.40. DF-522.60. Two £18.70. CSF-£89.21, Tricast

4.30 (7) 1. Trojan Hero (A Culhans, 4-1); 2. Concer Aral (2-1 fan); 3, Shoritaine (5-1), 71 fan. NR. Hype Superior 8, 1141 Mas M Reveley Tote: £5.40, £3.40, £1.20, £1.90. DF: £2.20, Tric: £3.020 CSF: £13.65. Tricast: £43.69.

suggest you forget them. When the subject is horses, Phillips's ability to communicate is a gift. He can even communicate confi-

dence to the former non-jumper, to me, to the United States threeday event team. The United States finished tenth at the 1992 Olympic Games, but won the silver medal in 1996. Phillips, their chef d'équipe, gave them purpose, au-thority, the feeling that they be-longed at the high table of world

Phillips likes the company of Americans, perhaps because no American can take the big soap with true seriousness. And, of course, he recently married one, Sandy Pflueger, the (now British-qualified) rider.

American horsepeople are pre-pared to take Phillips for what he is: a world-class sportsman. You don't expect a world-class sportsman to offer new insights on chaos theory or Marcel Proust. If Phillips manner of Linford Christie, Steve Redgrave, Ian Botham and Alan Shearer.

hillips has the CV of a doer, as well as of a teacher; he won gold with the Britain three-day eventing team at the Munich Olympics in 1972, won Badminton two years running and four times in ali. The record is a long way beyond good and, were it not for the big soap, he would be farnous

only as a top sportsman.

Phillips no longer competes. He is involved in the international horsey life: course design, running the United States team, teaching. He gives riding clinics for paying punters and he is not inclined to take the money and rum. The matter of The Times man with his borrowed and rackety little animal involved his heart and mind.

His ability to spot and cure a flaw is devastatingly swift. Riding teachers, no doubt because of the military traditions of equestrianism, often parody themselves into hollering martinets. In two days, Phillips never once raised his voice. This is a man on his own ground, confident and generous. This is the man who escaped the big soap and returned to real life and I watched and I took part as real life stamped all around him on pounding hooves.

☐ For further information about

Mark Phillips's riding clinics at Ashford Castle in Ireland, telephone 00 353 92 46003.



"He is not just a born horseman. He is also a born teacher."

Jultara can make presence felt over National fences

follow," he said.

upper-class twit

who doesn't know

about anything ex-

cept (maybe) horses. So the questions I was asked repeatedly

as I returned from

days in his com-

pany were: how much of an idiot is

he? Does he really

know anything

Well, I reply, he's only about the

best in the world.

There or there-

abouts, anyway. Which made the

idea of spending

time under his

personal instruc-

tion intriguing, to

So, when I got

on the borrowed horse, it was not

auspicious when the animal's first move was to charge off sideways

with his nose a good deal higher than his ears. Well, I thought, this

was going to be interesting.
Fast forward to 36 hours later.

my direction. "You lead. We'll

I eased my calm and confident

say the least.

The trouble is that Phillips has suffered the tragedy of being famous for the wrong reason. He played a long season or two before he was written out of that long-running soap, The Windsors, and amused half-smillips in amused half-smillips in long transition.

about horses?

BEC

1.20: Aardwolf can continue the good run of Charlie Brooks, despite being out of the handicap. Best racing right-handed with give in the ground, the six-year-old was in the process of running a good race when falling on his seasonal reappearance at Sandown (where Dextra Dove was tailed off). Glemot finished well ahead of Cool Dawn at Wincanton but is umproven on this surface, and Cool Dawn could be a big danger with Andrew Thornton aboard.

1.55: The hurdling career of Real Estate did not get off to an ideal start at Kempton behind Sound Appeal, but there were genuine excuses for that run and this well-regarded Flat recruit is expected to do much better. He won two middle-distance handicaps for Chris Wall last summer and is proven on soft ground. lan Balding enjoys considerable success with his small string of jumpers so a market move for Papua would be significant. Monarch's Pursuit, from Tim Easterby's in-form yard, is the best of those to have run. 2.30: see facing page.

Going: good to soft (chase course), soft-

(number) 1.00 (2m 4f hdie) 1. Supreme Cherm (W Velsch, 9-4 fav), 2. Macmonie (4-1); 3. Mayên Magic /12-1). 10 ren. Nk. 14l. K Bailey. Tote 23 10; 21.60, 21.70, 22.50. DF: 24.60. Thio: £20.90, CSF: £9.57.

DF: £4.60 This: £20.90, CSF: £9.57.

1.35 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Symbol Of Success (Mr S Durack, 4-1); 2, Aler Moor (15-8 tax); 3, Spring Double (5-2); 5 ran. 144, clat. D Williams Total: £5.20, £2.20, £1.40. DF: £4.90. CSF: £10.24

2.10 (3m hole) 1, Brackenheath (N Williamson, 9-1); 2, Decryborg (7-2); 3, Dom Beltrato. (10-11 fam), 8 ran. 8, clat. D Grissell, Total: £8.80; £1.60, £1.20, £1.20

DF: £17.30. CSF: £25.83.

2.40 (2m 4t hole) 1, Pridwell (A P McCoy, 5-5 lev); 2, Ocean Hewk (6-1); 3, Moscow Express (11-2) 5 ran, 3, 3, M Prior Total \$1,90; \$1.40, \$2,70 DF; \$8.70, CSF; \$7.30.

5 3.10 (2m ch) 1, Leobard (N Williamson, 7-4 tav); 2, Arctic Kinsman (4-1); 3, Storm Alart (3-1), 8 ran, 61, 11, Mass V Williamson, Tole (22.50; C1.80, C1.90, DF: E5-20, CSF- E7-86,



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

AINTREE

1.05: The new connections of Harlequin Chorus evidently believe him to be well treated, giving him a first look at lences in this handicap. Only modest with Jim Old last year. he will come on for his emcouraging reappearance over timber at Newbury. He stays further and handles soft ground. Storm Run, bang there when falling two out at Chehenham last week but dropped back in trip, would appear to need an even stiffer test. Stanmore's form is all on faster ground, so the danger is Winsford Hill, who ran out a most impressive winner at Worcester in September.

1.35: The presence of the frontrunning Easy Listening and Khalidi should ensure a RICHARD EVANS strong pace here. That was

one of the factors that set up Good Vibes for an impressive defeat of Alabang at Wetherby on his reappearance. He acts on this easier ground. Also well suited by sitting off the pace is Chai-Yo, who showed his liking for this sharp track last year. Flying Eagle, easy winner of an uncompetitive race at Sandown, has more to

2.10: The bold-jumping

Stormtracker should be quite a spectacle over the National fences here, but he is ideally suited by faster ground. Young Hustler, beaten by only one horse in two appearances in this race, may need the run this time after his long lay-off. Nor can his stablemates, Dakyns Boy and the National third, Camelot Knight, be backed with confidence, given the patchy form of their trainer this term. Samice and Court Melody would enter calculations but make the odd mistake. Sounds Strong made a worthy return at Wetherby, but lacks the potential of Jultara, who is worth forgiv-ing an uncharacteristic mishap at Kempton. He is 81b out of the handicap, but that is less of a concern in long-distance chases, and he could prove well handicapped anyway.

CHRIS MCGRATH

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)

ы	יטע	QOATHLAND MARES ONLY MAIDEN
		(\$2,486: 2m 3f) (15 runners)
- 1	-442	AMEXA'S GEM 15 (V) MIS 5 Baychums 4-11-0 . E Callegran (3)
2	ď	AMKA'S GEM 15 (V) Mrs 5 Burdums 4-11-0 . E Callighan (8) CAROL AGAIN 154F N Byerst 5-11-0
3	0D-Ú	CEEJAYBLE 35 N Chamberlan 4-11-0
- 4	P4-0	CELTIC COMMA 10 W Reed 6-17-0 T Reed
5		CHANTILLY ROSE R Breads 5-11-0 B Storey
- 6	P-30	DELIGHTFOOL 10 R Neas 6-11-0
7	1-P4	FOREVER GREY 23 (F) J Howard Johnson 6-11-8 P Carberry
8	80-	GILSAN STAR 203 C Factors 4-11-0 D Bentley
9		HAPPY GALE II Marson 4-11-0 L O'Haris
10	5-0	HUTCHES LADY 6 R McKeller 5-11-0
11	2-12	JESSICA ONE 14 (G) Mrs M Reveloy 6-11-0 P Nixon
12	3QU6	MEADOWLECK 12 W Young 8-11-0
13		NATIVE SONG 416F W Storey 4-11-0 In Minimary
14	PP-F	POLITICAL DIAMOND 12 J Charles 6-11-0 D Thomas (7)
15	02-	TABRIZ 236 P Avison 4-11-0 0.Pears

1.30 BROMPTON JUVENILE NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (3-Y-0: £1,996: 2m) (11)

1 of 20 dissauston Times 19 (0.F) W Melsons 11-6 C McContack (7)
2 DR WDODSTOCK 75F W Slovey 11-0
I Supple
4 WBLSKIP 2025 J Berry 11-0 D Parker
5 CAIRN DRU 23F D Bades 10-11
6 OO SPECULATIVE 7 (8) W Storey 10-11 M Molioney
THEM WESTER IS O MAN TO 9
8 PSS FORTUNE HUNTER 29 J Horas 10-8 B Grattan (5)
9 04 MON PERFORMER 19 (8) M Camerto 10-8 E Callegton (3)
10 REEDOM OF TROY 46F Mrs M Randey 10-5
11 4PG LA PERDOMA 42 Mess M Miligan 18-0
7-4 Freedom Of Troy, 9-2 Mos. Performer, 5-1 Dissington Times, 7-1 La Perdoma. 8-1 Fortune Histor, 18-1 Hever Golf Calvaner, 12-1 Dr Woodstock, 14-1 others.
8-1 Forteric Hapter, 10-1 Heren Gold Chaterier, 12-1 Dr Woodstock, 14-1 objects.
O OE
2.05 NORTHERN ECHO RACING NORTH NOVICES
MINO MANUSCRIPTUS STATES CONTROLLES CONTROLL

1 554 FROMP SATELLITE 11 (5) kirs. J Brown 6-11-3 E Calibohan (3)
2 D-Let SWARD EDGE 14 (8F D.F.G) T Easterly 5-11-3 ... 8 Samps
3 1-735 SAVET MIND 14 D.F.G.S) kirs M Receley 5-11-3 ... 9 Samps
4 13-F SAMLENSK 15 (8F.D.F) J Broyn 5-11-3 ... 9 Parter
5 0-33 TOM BRODE 25 (0.F.S) J Homed Jehrson 7-11-3 P Carberty
6 401- LUCKY BEA 255 (0.5) M 19 Carberty 5-10-3 ... D Bertley
7 0-00 POLITICAL MANDATE 58 Noon 4-10-0 ... C McCommack (7)
Charles Edies 5-2 Tom Brown 3-2 Stretches 1-10-5 Sertley 1-2-5 Sertles 1 6-4 Shining Edge, 5-2 Torn Bradm. 7-2 Smolensi, 10-1 Fryup Salelline, 12-1 Silvo Miro, 16-1 Luciy 8ea, 50-1 Political Mandale.

2.35 DARLINGTON & STOCKTON TIMES

CHASE (£3,324: 2m) (7)

HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,705: 3m 1t 110yd) (7) MARIERICAP HUMBLE (22,703: 3(1) (1 10)(0) (1)

1 1231 'ACALIDU IN 12 (5,6) 6 Richards 9-17-0 ... C MicDompack (7)

3 14-2 SYMCPAK CYRAND 58 (8) II Caemberten 8-10-7 . B Storey

4 13-1 BARDAROS IN (6,6) N Miche | Russell 8-116-5 ... M Forster

5 25-6 CASH BOK 35 (8) 1 Cam 9-10-10 ... N Smith

6 5122 DOWN PORSET CURIS 14 (8) Mrs Lamb 5-10-3 ... N Smith

6 5122 DOWN PORSET CURIS 14 (8) Mrs Lamb 5-10-3 ... N Smith

7 3132 SANCY RIM 15 (6,10) Plast 5-10-0 ... C CLEP (3)

9-4 Acajou III, 7-2 Bardaros, 8-2 Doni Forget Curts, 6-1 Nassam, 8-1 Gymczak

Cyrano, Cast Box, 12-1 Sancy Max.

3.10 DICK BREWITT MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap chase: £3,149: 2m 3l) (6)

15-8 Corston Jelier, 9-4 Golden Hello, 4-1 Martie Man, 9-2 Chadwick's Gioger 13-2 Tapalch, 25-1 Spring Leaded. 3.45 WOOD HOUSE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (\$2,479: 2m) (10)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANERS: T Easteby, 7 venues tota 15 names, 48.7%, Mrs. M. Reveley, 17 form 97, 19.5%, J J Calon, 6 form 33, 18.2%; L Lusgo, 8 form 45, 17.4%; J Morien, 3 from 20, 15.0%.
JOCKEYS: P Niven, 19 venues: horn 79 date, 24.1%, P Carbony, 5 form 25, 20.0%; M Malcone, 5 from 26, 19.2%, E Calloghan, 7 from 40, 17.5%, T Reed, 11 from 81, 13.6%.

12.50 River Bay, 1.25 Oakbury, 1.55 Ermine Street. 2.25 Know-No-No. 3.00 Sammorello. 3.35 Swynford

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

12.50 EBF TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) MARES ONLY NOVICES CHASE (£3,795; 2m 4f) (4 numers) 1 483 ADE MEMORIE 10 (S) R Johnson 8-10-10 K Johnson 2 07- OWENS QUEST 376 (D.C.S) T Etrenglen 7-10-10 ... J Supple 2 290- RWRS RW 219 SS Mass H Knght 6-10-10 ... P Feature 4 PVO- SPRINGFIELD RHYME 210 S Gollings 6-10-10 ... W Massion

1.25 CLUESTON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,774: 2m 3l 110yd) (7)

4-7 Rhey Bay, 11-4 Auto Mampiro, 7-1 Owens Durst, 14-1 Springfield Rhyme

2 9-20 AFRICAM SUN 9 M Chaprein 4-11-8 W Worthington
3 35-5 SONG FOR JESS 148 F Juden 4-11-7 Byrn
4 0-10 DAUGHRY 15 (C.5) Mice L Satelal 5-11-6 T Stetcal (?)
5 0-89 MESA 100 5 J Poulton 5-10-7 J Mague (3)
4 0P-5 SRIPER 11 F Martagin 5-10-8 J Catagonas
7 0-40 FRE SPRIT 9 N Lampard 5-10-0 L Cammins (5)
Song For Jess, 3-1 Dalbaris. 7-2 Martage Car. 7-5 Mague (3) 1 0840 HEVER GOLF DIAMOND B (B.F.S) J R Best 4-12-0 5-2 Soog For Jess, 3-1 Celthoy, 7-2 Alman Soo, 7-1 Here: Gott Diemond, Sniper. 8-1 Maga Tid, 25-1 Fire Spire.

1.55 CONSORT TRAVEL HOVICES HURDLE (£2,705: 2m 5l 110yd) (11)

2.25 CLUGSTON HANDICAP CHASE (£4,560: 2m 11 110yd) (4)

2-5 Know-No-No. 7-2 in Truth. 8-1 Mr Fudge. 20-1 The Manager

3.00 CLUGSTON NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,678° 3m 11) (12)

3.35 INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,331 2m 11110yd) (7)

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRANSPS: Mics H Knaphi, 10 winners from 32 namers, 31 3%, No Factor-Davies, 7 from 26, 25,9%, J Fitzgerald, 15 from 97, 15,5%, Mrs P Sty, 3 from 20, 15,0%, Mrs L Suddall, 6 from 45, 13.3%, Airs S South, 12 from 96, 17,5%, JOCKEYS: I Jents, 3 winners from 9 rudes, 33.3% F Lealny, 8 from 55, 14.5%, D Byrace, 9 from 69, 13,0%, 8 Garriary, 13 from 115, 11.3%, W Marston, 3 from 30, 10.0%

Blinkered first time

ASCOT: 3.40 Petraugh CATTERICK: 1.30 Speculative

MARKET RASEN | Pilsudski favourite to finish career on high in Japan

PILSUDSKI has been installed the 7-4 favourite by Coral to finish his racing career on a winning note in the Japan Cup at Tokyo in the early hours of tomorrow

morning.
The globetrotting five-yearold, trained by Michael
Stoute, is aiming to add a
further £882,000 in prizemoney to his already impressive haul before being retired to stud.

Michael Kinane's mount attempts to become only the third British-trained horse to take the race, but a second successive winner for Michael Stoute, who saddled Singspiel to success 12 months ago.

The mile-and-a-half event. with total prize-money of 327million yen (£1.5million), is one of the few races in Japan open to foreign horses. It has fallen to an overseas raider !!

times in 16 runnings. Victory would make Pilsud-ski, drawn in stall three, a group one winner in five different countries. His previous successes at the highest level have come in the Mercedes-Benz Grosser Preis Von Baden in Germany and the Breeders' Cup Turf in Canada last year, and the Eclipse Stakes, Champion Stakes and Irish Champion

Stakes this season. Also runner-up in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe for the last two years, he has earned over El.9million in career prize-money. Next to him in stall four will

be fellow British challenger Mons, for whom Luca Cumani has booked John Reid to replace the suspended Frankie Dettori. Last month Mons finished third in the Gran Premio del Jockey Club two lengths behind tomorrow's rival Caitano (Andrasch Starke), who bids to follow up Germany's success Lando two years ago. Europe is also represented

by the dual Irish St Leger winner, Oscar Schindler (Cash Asmussen), and French raider Astarabad (Gerald Mosse), a group three winner at Bordeaux last month. Ebony Grosve (Shane Dye).

who disappointed in the Melbourne Cup, represents Aus-



Stoute: fine chance

tralia, while the main home hopes appear to rest with Air Groove and Bubble Gum Fellow, who have been batthing for Japanese horse of the year honours all season. After Pilsudski at 7-4, Coral

bets: 7-2 Air Groove, 9-2 Bubble Gum Fellow, 7-1 Astarabad, Oscar Schindler, 12-1 Ebony Grosve, Caitano, 16-1 Royal Touch, Rosen Kavalier, 20-1 Silk Justice, 33-1 Mons, Tsukuba Symphony, 50-1 Snow Endeavour, Taiki Fortune,

- TOKYO TOMORROW -

GOING: FIRM

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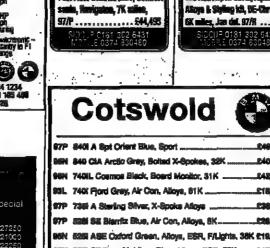
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Why the bus can't compete any more



Rewing up for the RAC Rally

THE SECTION FOR CARS, BIKES, BOATS AND EVERYONE ON THE MOVE

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

This road cure is going to hurt

Everyone agrees the Government must do something about traffic -

Even the

admit that

we drive

too much

but not to them, says Alan Copps

he first target has already been singled out: stand by for more howls of protest from that much-pilloried creature, the company car driver, When the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, stands up on Tuesday to deliver his pre-Budget statement in the Commons, his words will be keenly examined by everyone in the transport business.

Ministers and officials have indicated this week that stiffer taxes on company cars are likely to be balanced by tax breaks for those whose employers pay for season

But before the much-heralded integrated transport policy de-signed to tackle congestion and pollution takes shape, the Government has a mountain of paperwork to climb - the 4,000 replies to its consultation document on transport issued in August. These, it has promised, will play a major part in shaping the White Paper on trans-

next spring.
That we rely too heavily on the car is not carmakers in dispute, even the motor - manufacturers accept that. The figures on the right show how dramatically our patterns of travel have shifted in the past 35 years. But a glance at

port to be published

some of those replies serves only to emphasise what a mass of conflicting interests and historic misconceptions any new policy has to

For example, the company carr-driver might seem a popular target for increased taxation, but the Retail Motor Industry Federation company cars, according to the tax definition, has already fallen from 1.95 million to 1.65 million in the past five years. It estimates that of the 25.5 million cars on Britain's roads only 5.35 million are used regularly for business.

Since company cars now account for more than 50 per cent of all new car sales, those cars most prominently in the line of tax-



A solar car leads Powershift's line-up of cleaner-fuel gas and electric-propelled vehicles

ation's fire are the newest, and therefore the cleanest on the roads. Private motorists going to and from work, school, the shops or just for a drive are likely to cause greater pollution.

Only one thing is going to get those drivers out of their cars: a drastic improvement in public transport. That is the one point of agreement in almost every response.

Railtrack, which perhaps stands to gain more than anyone else from such a change, says it could double services within 15 years if the demand were there. But demand will only grow, it says, if road users are made to pay the "true social costs" of their journeys. According to its calculation road users pay only 28 per cent of the true cost of any journey at the time they make it (the petrol bill, rather than road maintenance, depreciation, servicing, etc). So a great deal of its re-

sponse spells out how road users might be taxed to make them more aware of this. Meanwhile, the mo-

tor industry is demanding to know what happens to the £26 billion taxes already paid annually by mo-torists. Even if not spent on roads, it should be spent on transport, says RMI chief executive, Christopher Macgowan.

Almost everyone who responded to the consultation wants some sort of subsidy for their own interest. The Government has taken one small practical step by starting to convert its own fleet of 175 ministerial cars to run on natural gas., The Energy Saving Trust, which, through the Powershift initiative, is responsible for encouraging alternative fuels, applauds this. At last month's motor show it organised an impressive array of gas and electric-powered vehicles.

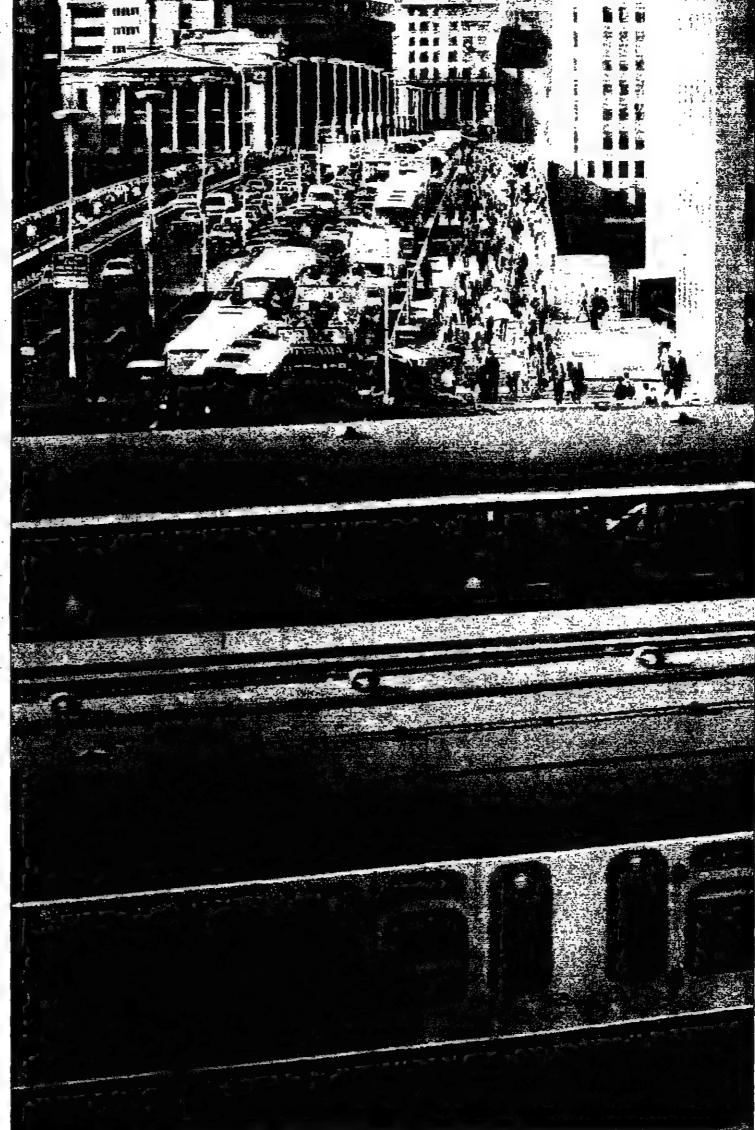
But it, too, says tax breaks are essential if others are to follow the Government's example. In particular it says the image of the bus must be cleaned up. Operators are currently reluctant to change to cleaner fuels because they get a rebate on the duty they pay on

conventional fuels.

Powershift admits that alternative fuels can only be part of the answer, but says that since a massive switch away from road transport is unlikely, it is vital to educate the public about which fuels are cleaner than petrol or diesel and to make them more widely available.

While most responses focus on city traffic, there are several good ideas for rural areas, such as one from the Council for the Protection of Rural England for walkers; cyclists and horse riders to be iven priority over motorised traffic on certain lanes.

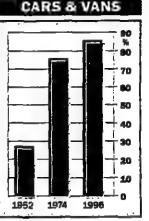
Of the alternative means of transport, the RMI makes a good case for motorcycles, in particular scooters and mopeds, to reduce congestion and pollution, especially in cities. But the provision of secure parking at stations and workplaces for these vehicles is essential, it says. The Government, however, is already considering taxing parking places at work.



Railroaded by policy: train operators say they could double their services if new taxes were tough enough to force drivers out of cars

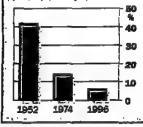
Rise of king car

■ IN 1952 Britons travelled 219 billion kilometres (136.5 billion miles) in the UK, more than 60 per cent of them on public transport. Last year we travelled more than three times as far; 86 per cent by car. All other forms of domestic transport (except for air) have declined dramatically The graphs show the percentage of all travel accounted for by various modes of transport

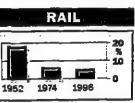


THE PROPORTION of travel in private cars more 1962. It has grown steadily at 1-2 per cent a year since. The total distance of all road iourneys has increased by more than 150 per cent.

BUSES & COACHES

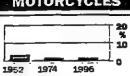


BUSES declined quickly after the war. Bus travel was halved to 21 per cent between 1952 and 1964. Since then, regardless of reorganisations and privatisation the decline has been absolutely steady.



The distance travelled by Britons on the railways has remained remarkably steady, between 35 and 40 billion kilometres per year. But the train's share of travel has declined from 18 per cent to just 5 per cent.

MOTORCYCLES

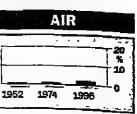


■ MOTORCYCLE use reached a peak of 4 per cent from 1957-1961 but then fell sharply to I per cent by 1968. The early 1980s saw a resurgence followed by another fall. Current trends suggest another rise.

PEDALCYCLES



■ NOTHING matches the fall of pedal power. In 1952 it accounted for more than 10 per cent of all our travel. By 1968 the figure was I per cent and despite booming cycle sales it remains at that level.



■ WE FLY much more now than we did in 1952 - a total of 6.3 billion kilometres last year against just 2 million in the 1950s. But as a proportion of our domestic people-moving.

Could Reliants be the answer? Ask the American Embassy



Hot to Trotter: Mike Gilbert bought Del Boy's car from the television series. Only Fools and Horses

nly fools want lots of horse-power, it seems, when driving in Britain's capital. So the American embassy has taken a leaf out of Del Boy's book and bought three Reliant Robins.

With next week's draft budget likely to point the way towards reducing the size of cars clogging Britain's roads, the embassy could find itself among the trendsetters. It is is so pleased with the threewheelers that it has just bought two newer models.

They are economical, manoeuvrable and good for running about town," says an embassy spokesman. The Americans' Robins are used to ferry maintenance crews to repair embassy houses and to carry general supplies, the spokesman adds. For Americans used to cheap

petrol, the Robin offers a special relationship with comparatively expensive British garage forecourts. The embassy's Robin Giant Pick-Up and the Super Van get between 56 and 72 miles to the gallon. The Super Vans cost just £5,140 each and road tax is £60 a year instead of

Eve-Ann Prentice on three-wheeling

£150 for more conventional vehicles. The manoeuvrability and low running costs may prove even more apposite after next Tuesday's announcements. The Government has already said it plans to reduce the number of parking places in London, sharply increase parking fees and cut the number of residents' parking permits. The scheme, revealed by Transport Minister Glenda Jackson last month, has brought warnings from the RAC that some areas of London could be killed off if people are prevented from driving to them.

Westminster Council, meanwhile, is to introduce Britain's highest parking meter fees in parts of the borough next year. The increase, from £2.40 to £3 an hour. will be accompanied by increases in parking ticket fines, from £60 to £80 in the West End. So a Trotter-style, three wheeler-dealer van can reach

could only dream of. Jonathan Heynes, who worked his way up from the shop floor at

parking places that a stretch-limo

Jaguar to senior management, liked Reliant Robins so much that he bought the factory in Tamworth, Staffordshire in January, 1996. Clearly the American embassy thinks it is a unique vehicle and that gives us a tremendous edge to go to other embassies and seek commissions," he says. The company is now on a high with 250 Robins, worth £500,000, an order.

"We have improved quality very much and there is confidence in the new company," says Heynes. "The cars have a revised cooling system. better instrumentation, interior trim and engine quality.

The forebears to the Trotters' trusty Reliant van were first produced by Tom Lawrence Williams in the garden of his home in Tamworth in 1934. The first passenger car, the Regal, was made in 1953 and boasted a revolutionary (literally) steering wheel instead of a handlebar, and managed a top speed of 60mph.

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New plans to price drivers out of cars will fail - the Tories sold the alternative

Labour's road policy has just missed the bus

missions to the Government on coping with cars and related transport matters has now passed and we await a White Paper next spring. More than 4,000 individuals and organisations sent in suggestions and the Transport Department is adamant that these will be considered as a basis for policy and not just used to mop up spilt coffee.

A small hint of the direction of

government transport policy may emerge next Tuesday, when the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, gives his "pre-budget report". This is largely about the fiscal position ahead of the Budget next March but he may say something that points at cutting or abolishing company car benefit. This is a mere hillock on the

mountain that has to be climbed to solve all our transport problems. Nor will a single White Paper transform our lives; that is not in the nature of politics. The best we can hope is that the Government will keep a proper balance between carrot and stick.

There are some in the anti-car lobby who simply want drivers punished. These spoilsports would charge El a mile for travel on motorways and, in the event that this had not bankrupted us, they would charge another huge sum for the privilege of entering cities in order to be clamped.

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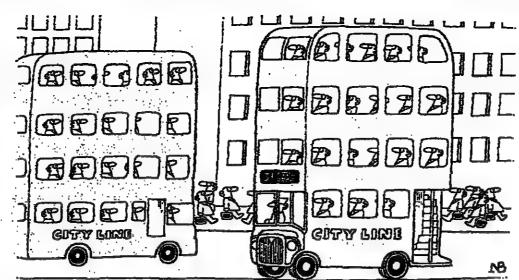
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Nobody pretends that we can let car growth expand without doing something, but there are too many people who pretend that the car is the only thing that needs attention. Public transport provision is much more important in persuading people out of their cars than changes to the cost of driving.

There is now very little Labour can do about public transport, however, because the Tories sold it. Tory dogma has done more to cloud and restrict the transport debate than any other single factor. Take London. When Ken Livingstone ran the city as leader

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of the old Greater London Council, from 1981 to 1986, he did some barmy things but he got transport policy right. The flat-fare system on the buses and Tubes worked, it

was simple and effective. That policy died with the GLC. So now fares are complex and too high, with the result that too many people suffer in their cars rather than suffer on the Tube.

Buses have become a double problem in cities. They are not cheap enough and they block the roads. The reason buses block the roads is that, in order to fatten the calf for privatisation, the old public bus services introduced one-man operated buses. Now drivers are obliged to take fares, they have to stop for longer than if they had a conductor.

Indeed a certain amount of mendacity was attached to the introduction of bus lanes. We were told they would ensure that public transport flowed like a river. The reality is different. Part of the reason bus lanes were needed was to cover up the disastrous consequences of abolishing bus conductors.

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

I cannot see how the Government can intervene significantly to change these policies now that buses are in the private sector. I suppose the industry regulator could do something about fares, but there is not much evidence that having a rail regulator is reducing rail fares: peak-time returns from London to three destinations: Leeds, £102; Cardiff, £77; Plymouth, £106.

Road pricing would only get car drivers on to the railways if, for example, the 310-mile London-Cardiff return journey by road is

more expensive than the £77 return rail fare. At about £3 a gallon, that journey by car would cost half the rail fare. However much people are encouraged to use the total cost of motoring as a comparison, they will usually focus on the real cost of a given

journey.
If the Government tries to price drivers off the roads rather than pricing them on to public trans-port it will be making a very big political error.

ON OCTOBER 18, I referred to new regulations for minibus drivers. The DVLA points out that regulations in force from January i. 1998 will not apply to everyone driving a minibus, whether or not it is for hire or reward. Changes for drivers who held a car licence prior to January 1, 1997 only take effect when they renew their licences after next January.

Drivers who first received a licence after January 1, 1997 will be able to drive a minibus for a non-commercial organisation. Fact sheets INF2S and INF40 are available from the DVLA, telephone 01792 792 792



John Naish on the row over a new bike that diehard fans are calling jerry-built

Tirst Rover, soon Rolls-Royce ... and now Norton is the latest illustrious British name to have fallen into the hands of German manufacturing.

A German company has launched a new motorcycle bearing the famous badge — which came as a surprise to British owners of the name and caused consternation among Norton enthusiasts. The 115mph bike emerged at the Inter-national Motorcycle Show at Bir-mingham's National Exhibition Centre last week.

An executive from the Norton factory at Shenstone in Leicestershire dashed to the show to discover the motorcycling equivalent of a beach towel on his deckchair: a stand and an £8,000 machine that bore little resemblance to Norton's classic bikes.

Bob Haynes, Shenstone's general manager, says: "I was livid when I saw the prototype and sad that the motorcycle show organisers had allowed it to be displayed."

Europe and is proud of his motor-

Joe Siefert, the German businessman behind the bike, was unrepentant. He now owns the rights to the

cycle, even though it cannot be sold in Britain for legal reasons.

"I bought my first Norton in 1968 and have been a fan ever since. That is why I became involved with the company and bought the Euro-pean trademarks." he said. Nortons, once the pride of Brit-

ain's motorcycle industry, ceased being built in 1995 after Norton Motors Ltd crashed. Now the group's assets are owned by a Canadian company, and several individuals, including Siefert, own territorial rights around the world. While the British factory is still kept open, manned by a skeleton staff of half a dozen workers, no bikes have been produced for four years. Myron Calof, of the Canadian

owner, Aqualini Investment, says only a bike made in England by English craftsman should bear the Norton badge. And he revealed there are serious plans to build a high-tech modern machine: "It's taking us longer than we wanted, but we are working hard to put the infrastructure in place. We hope to reveal details in the new year."

in the meantime, Siefert decided to make his own Norton name in continental

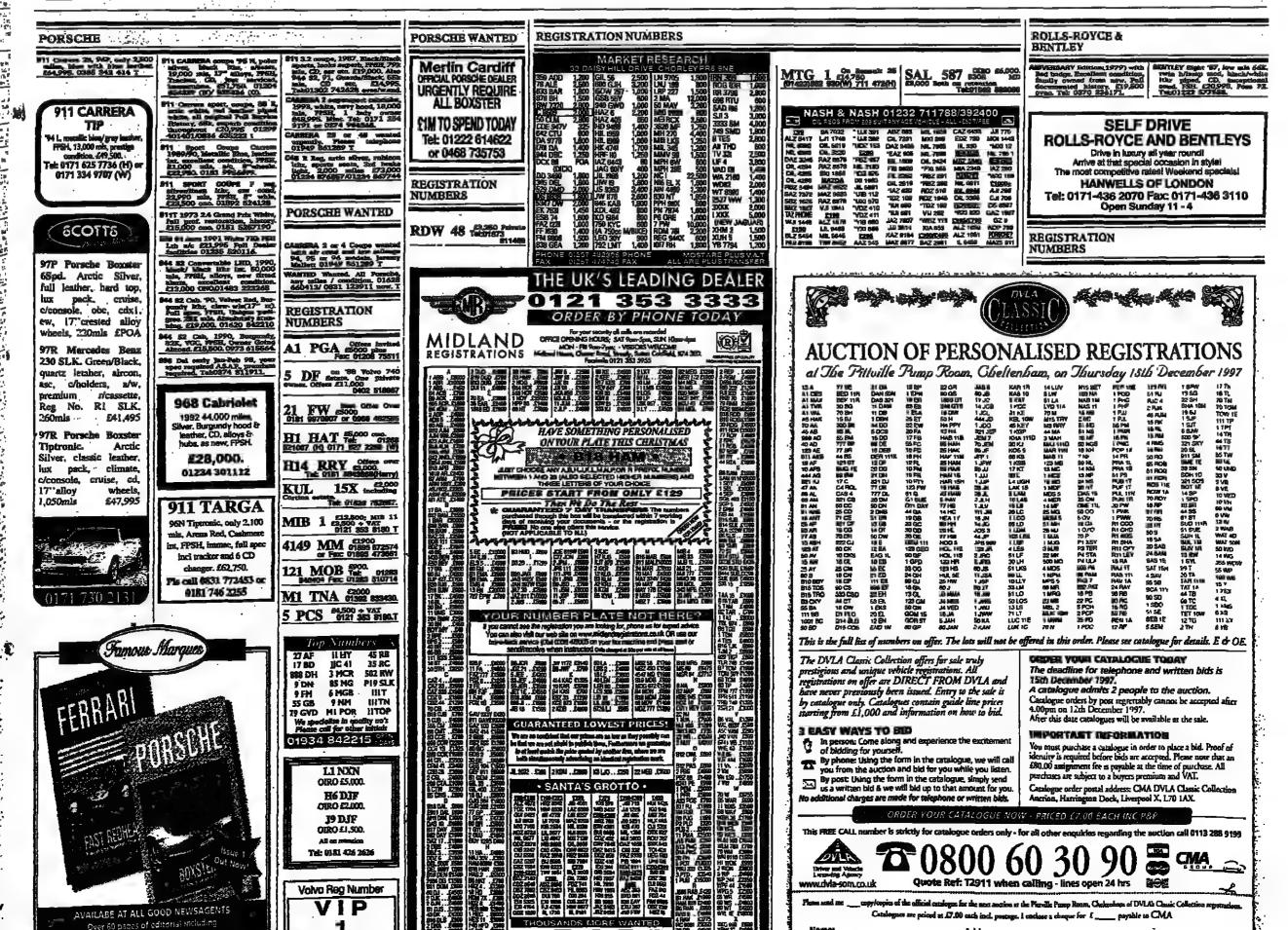
NORTON C652SM

Engine: Four-valve Swiss 652cc single-cylinder watercooled Rotax, delivering around 48bhp. Suspension: German front (Bilstein), Italian rear (Paoli). Frame: English, by Tigeraft. Brakes: Italian (Brembo). Price: Around £8,000. Available next year, though you will have to go to Germany to buy one.

100th anniversary. The prototype was finished in four months and built around a single-cylinder 650cc Swiss Rotax engine. Apart from the frame, very little of the machine, named the Norton C652SM, is

Peter Cocks, chairman of the 4,000-strong Norton Owners Club. said: "Slapping a Rotax engine in a frame is not going to recreate the flavour of a Norton."

But Siefert says his machine is a labour of love: "I'm not really doing it as a commercial enterprise," he adds, "but to build a Norton that handles well, is light weight and good on country roads. I plan to build 100 next year and will just



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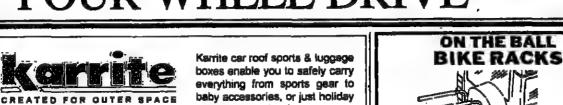
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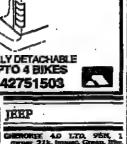
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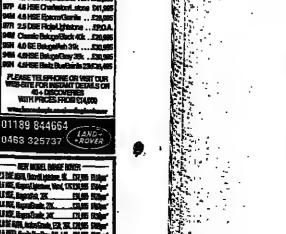
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RAC Rally starts tomorrow: we ride with a champion, join the virgins and study the first diesel entrant

Wy Morag
Preton shook

I'l never nlly to that man's sice again

e last time Juha (ankkunen, rallyng's most successful triver, invited me for a drive, is £250,000 car broke down. Inight have been wise to have st it at that.

to have stit at that.

Kankinen, 38, winner of 21 rallies ad four world championships has had an erratic season is year and went out of the rent Australian rally after hing a tree. Nevertheless, them shone on the rally track afilverstone on the day of our sond try, and as it was only da: to go before the start of the KC Rally. I comforted myself with the fact that Kankkuen was, no doubt, saving mself for the big one.

I builily took my place in a line f enthusiastic junior rally dvers who had won a competon to ride with Kankkunen"Oh dear, looks like you're umber seven darling — notvery lucky," said a helpfulngineer. But the helmet fittl and the inscrutable Finn ws smiling at last, so with a reling of unshakeable confidere I buckled up in the Escort ext to him.

DUR OWN INITIALS

JUDE

RI JMC



Strapped in next to Juha Kankkunen, Morag remembers the old warning, "May your wishes never come true"

But what I had mistaken for a "Shall we dance?" smile was the Devil's in disguise. Hellbent on showing me what I had missed out on previously, Kankkunen pulled out all the stops. Through mud and over gravel, the car popped and banged until we were travelling at speeds of up to 80mph. That might not sound fast, but when the corners are so

tight that you find yourself being driven sideways, there is nothing in the world like it. Which is not to say I did not enjoy it. Grinning from ear to ear (I have no idea why), I turned helplessly to my driver to check that he had not gone completely bonkers, and was still holding on to the wheel. To reassure myself again. I looked down to check his pixie-

booted feet. One of them did not leave the accelerator. The brakes — which can bring the car to an immediate halt at the gentlest of nudges — were rudely ignored until the turn of every corner.

My stomach shrank and I stopped breathing for the whole of the outing. It was like sitting next to a robot, but this one can read, and I suddenly

BE DDS MBAHA

had the horrible idea that he might have been offended by my earlier article deriding his ability at the wheel of a family car. This was his high-speed revenge.

I was still smiling when we

eventually came to a halt, but I scrambled as quickly as I could from the seat of his car. No one leapt to wrap a reassuring arm around my shoulder or lead me to a nearby seat.

They thought I had existed.

They thought I had enjoyed it — until minutes later when, with a mug of sweet milky tea in my hand. I started to shake. I have only ever seen people do this after car crashes, but my heart-stopping experience must have been the next worst thing.

thing.
Meanwhile, Kankkunen was coolly preparing for his flight home to join his wife and young son at their cottage in Laukaa, Finland. It was all in a day's work for him. For me, it was a once-in-a-lifetime ride — never ever to be repeated.

Claire Bowen

is almost ready

Nervous start for the first stagers

or anyone who loves this crazy sport, competing in the Network Q RAC Rally is the ultimate thrill.

So when I was asked to join one. I took only a couple of seconds to give a resounding yes—even though I had never met the man who asked the question and I hadn't competed for almost eight years.

The man I said "yes" to.

The man I said "yes" to, Barry Strong, has quite a pedigree in rallying with six motor club association championship titles to his credit and over 100 class wins.

I could see that I had my

work cut out to match his pace, so out came the rally navigator manuals, which became compulsory bedtime reading. Barry, an area business manager for Proton, and I faced a massive amount of preparation before driving on to the start ramp tomorrow.

As first-timers we were in at the deep end. And our service crew, specially selected Proton employees, have had no previous experience of rallying. Barry, who lives in RZAGGJ

Three novices: Barry Strong, Claire Bowen and Proton

Wrotham near Sevenoaks, burnt the midnight oil to prepare our 1600cc Proton Compact, a car that has never been rallied in Europe before and had to be specially prepared before being accepted as a competitive vehicle.

While Barry worked on the car I had another mission — to get fit. The RAC Rally is a gruelling event and fitness equals better concentration and more stamina. I also had to pass a stress-related heart-fitness test.

October saw our first major setback as our entry was rejected, but a few days later we were placed on the reserve list. Then came the call one Friday that we had made it on to the competitors list.

It has been a long hard slog getting here and the more we know about the event the more concerned we become. "I'm really apprehensive. This is my first attempt at rallying in a front-wheel-drive car but I expect I'll be OK at the end of the first stage." says Barry.

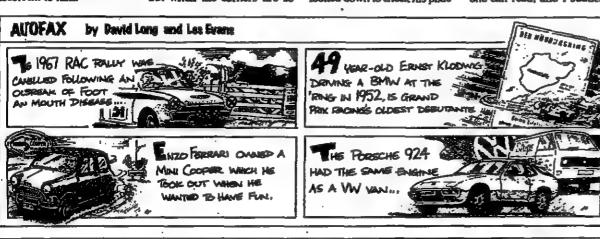
of the first stage," says Barry.

I might just take a little longer to get into the swing of it. But one thing is certain. For both of us. Sunday morning in Cheltenham will be the realisation of our dreams.

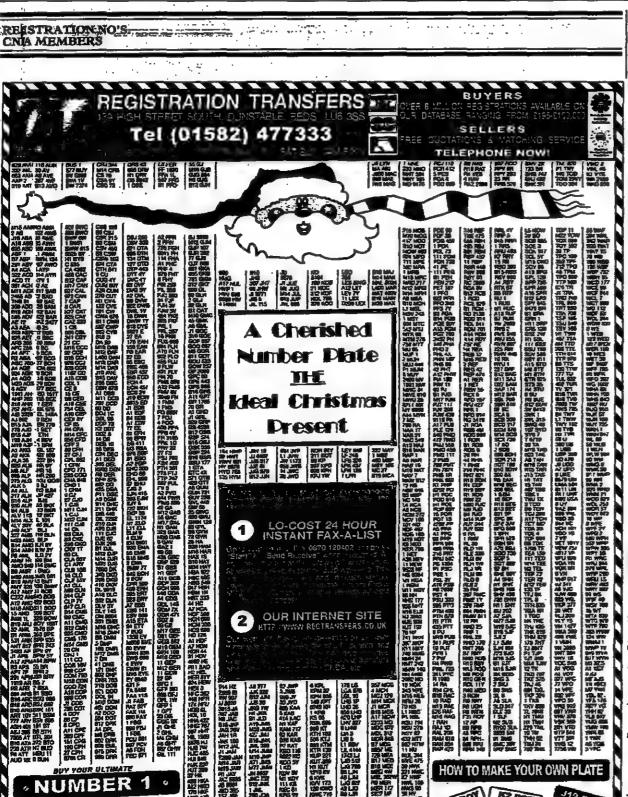
If there were a prize for economy in the RAC Rally then the Citroën ZX driven by Nigel Griffiths and Neil Jones would be odds-on favourite. Its 1,9-litre diesel engine is the first to power an entry in the event's 35-year history.

the event's 35-year history.

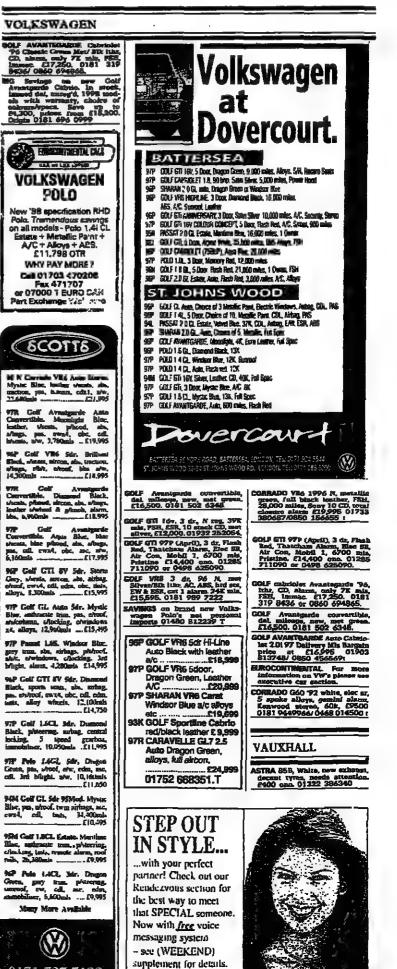
The team is praying for the worst possible weather, which would bring out the best in the car. Sponsored by Greenergy, the specialist clean diesel fuel suppliers, the car returns an astonishing 26mpg even in the most earnest competition.











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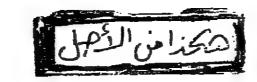
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Over-optimistic house prices are beginning to meet some resistance, says Sara McConnell

Buyers take the upper hand

by many buyers as the one when they tried to buy a house and failed. Not because they could not afford it but because there was nothing they wanted to buy.

As the housing market recovery

gathered pace at the start of the year, frantic housebuyers, particu-larly in London and the South East, fought over homes. Contracts were exchanged in days or even hours rather than weeks. Rising prices, fuelled mainly by lack of supply, persuaded many potential sellers to hold back in the hope of a higher price. Those sellers who did come forward then began to gazump

Amid angry calls for an anti-gazumping law, the Government promised an overhaul of the whole housebuying process in September. Its report next February is expected to be highly critical of the current slow and inefficent system. Only now, as the year ends, are buyers starting to set the pace.

Prospective buyers, particularly in London, are libbing at over-optimistic asking prices as they feel the pinch of rising interest rates. say housing analysts and agents. At the same time, more sellers are putting their homes on the market, easing the shortage of property which has been mainly responsible for pushing up prices. Matthew Ryall, economist at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, says: "It's turning into a buyer's market and there should be more

property coming on in 1998.

In its latest quarterly review of the housing market, the Nationwide Building Society says there have been "anecdotal reports of buyer resistance" to higher prices. Buyers can now afford to be choosier and are under less pressure to exchange quickly, partly because there is more choice of property and partly because there is less competition from other

Richard Woolf, of Winkworth, the London estate agent, said; "For the first time in many years we are seeing a greater equilibrium between supply and demand. Al-



The W6 bargain that rose £70,000 in six months

K ale Arthur snapped up what she now re-alises was a bargain in March this year when she exchanged contracts on a three-bedroomed house in southwest London. She had an inkling that prices were rising sharply in Fulham when her two-bedroom flat, bought in 1989 for £116,000 was valued at £165-£170,000 last December [Sara McConneil

. "I thought we would get about £145,000" said Ms Arthur, who works for an estate agency but who, like most of her colleagues, was taken by surprise by the strong market

buoyant and some record prices

have been achieved, buyers are

generally more thoughtful about

their purchases and more sensitive

Such sentiments mark

seachange in the housing market since the beginning of 1997. After six years in the doldrums, prices

started to rise at the end of last year.

forcing analysts such as the Halifax

to review their predictions for 1997

to overpricing".

quickly for £165,000 in February she began to get anxious because she had nowhere to go. She was forced to rent, fortunately finding an unfurnished home through contacts. Ms Arthur had decided to target the Crab-

tree conservation area, on the boundary between Hammersmith and Fulham, where bargains could still be had because most of the roads have the less desirable W6 Hammersmith postcode. Rising prices and a shortage of property in Fulham have been forcing many buyers to spread their net over a

causing "ripple effects" in unlikely

areas such as Tooting and Hack-

ney. In Battersea, the price of a one bedroom flat rose 30 per cent in three months while the price of a

four-bedroom house rose 70 per

cent in three years, said Winkworth More sellers started to

flex their muscles by gazumping

buyers and accepting higher offers.

cent. Estate agents were caught by

surprise and rapidly sold any

decent property on their books.

Buckland, in High Wycombe said:

"It was as if someone had pulled a switch. Everything took off between November and December". Sharply rising prices in London captured headlines over the next

few months, fuelled by demand

from overseas buyers and cash

buyers clutching hundreds of thou-

Duncan, of Raffety

She had one abortive attempt to put in an offer on an Edwardian house that needed much work. The property attracted so much demand that the agent demanded scaled bids. Luckily she almost immediately found another similar property that had come on to the market for £190,000. It needed work and the seller, who was overseas, was prepared to take £188,000. Since she exchanged in May, she has spent £25,000 on a new roof over an extension and other repairs but the property is now valued at £260,000.

sands of pounds in City bonuses. a practice which revived unwel-Buyers who could not afford the come memories of the late 1980s. choicest areas moved further out

The general election in May registered scarcely a blip, as the market powered on. Gordon Brown's first Budget in July gener-ating rumours about the abolition of mortgage interest tax relief and rises in stamp duty brought a rush of activity the weekend before as people tried to exchange contracts to avoid higher taxes.

But critics sceptical of press

claims of a housing boom pointed out that the number of transactions was still well down on levels in the late 1980s and that rises were being pushed upwards almost solely because of a shortage of property rather than because more people were buying. According to the Halifax. 1.3 million homes have so far changed hands this year, well down on the 1.6 million expected in a normal year. At the peak of the 1988 boom, 2.2 million transactions were recorded.

Competition between buyers also focused almost exclusively on prime properties, particularly fam-ily homes. Studios, one-bedroomed flats and shoddy 1980s conversions languished unsold while the firsttime buyers, who once would have bought them, were able to leapfrog to larger flats on the back of some of the cheapest mortgage money since the mid 1960s. In High Wycombe, young families are looking for three-bedroom semi-detached houses selling for between £80,000 and £100,000, said Mr Duncan.

nly in the latter part of the year are there signs that first time buyers are turning back to flats as the cost of mortgage money rises. During this year, the average percentage of net income first-time buyers spend on mortgage repayments has crept up from 30 per cent to 35 per cent. Growing numbers of buyers investing in property to rent has also improved the market for flats, say

West Midlands have seen some of the best growth, said Mr Ryall. By contrast, the North West and North East and Wales have seen prices remain relatively static. Nation-wide reported underlying rises of just 1.3 per cent in Wales in the third quarter of last year compared with 5.3 per cent in Greater London. Between the third quarter of 1996 and the third quarter o 1997, house prices across the UK rose by 12 per cent, while in Greater London the rise was 30 per cent.

Prices may surge 11% next year

N ext year could see house prices across the country rise up to 11 per cent on average as the cost of borrowing their homes on the market, some housing analysts said this week. But others were more cautious, suggesting rises of only 5-7 per cent. Ed Stanfield, UK economist

at SBC Warburg, feels prices will end the year 9.5 per cent up on the end of 1996 and finish 1998 If per cent up on this year. He said: "We expect prices to carry on rising. They still have some way to get back to mid-1980s levels". Almost for the first time since the market began to turn, regions outside London and the South East will start to see higher prices, he said.

Rising prices will continue to free more people from the negative equity trap, fuelling more activity. Mr Stanfield thinks mortgage rates will fall sharply in the second half of next year, encouraging more buyers into the market. There have been five interest rate rises this year since the general election in May, pushing average mortgage rates up 1.5 per cent. By next summer, they could be I per cent lower.

The Nationwide is also optimistic about next year. saying: "confidence remains high, reflecting a strong employment market and solid growth in incomes." But it believes prices could rise just 7 per cent over 1998, against a 12 per cent third quarter year on year rise. It says buyer resistance will choke off some of the excesses of the London market, where some areas have seen 40 per cent rises.

Halifax is more cautious, forecasting prices will rise by no more than 6 per cent over 1998 after ending this year 6 per cent up on last year.

SARA MCCONNELL

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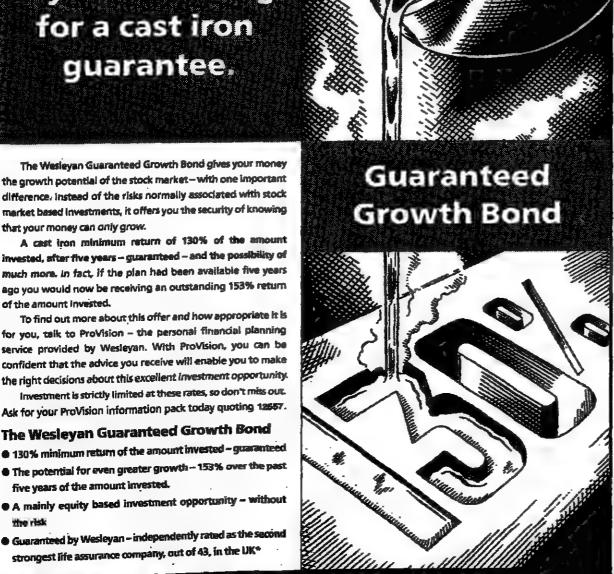
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Rights issues and shareholders' rights

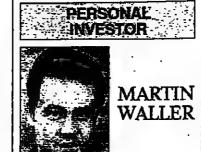
There is no link, causal, moral or otherwise, between the staggering E3.1 billion that a collection of bright financial brains and their work were valued at on Wednesday and the investigation announced into the rights issue gravy train on Thursday. It is merely one of those pleasant coincidences that occasionally crop up to add

to the gaiety of life. On Wednesday Mercury Asset Management, arguably our best money manager, was sold to an American for about £3 billion more than the value of the buildings, desks and screens that its highly paid staff use to conduct their business. On Thursday John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, ordered a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into the fees that institutions such as Mercury earn, as a right, whenever companies seek to raise fresh capital on the stock market by issuing new shares.

Mercury does not see much of its profits, £171 million before tax last financial year, from such fees. But the fund manager was sufficiently moved to slip out, largely unnoticed, a defence of the system as it stands as "the cheapest system of fundraising in the world".

This system allows a flat 2 per cent of the amount of fresh capital being raised in a rights issue to stick to the fingers of those City bodies that make it happen. 0.5 per cent goes to the investment bank and half that amount to the stockbroker. 1.25 per cent is paid to those institutions that underwrite the issue, pledging that they will take the shares in the last resort if existing shareholders, for whatever reason, decide to cold-shoulder them.

Underwriting is needed because of the length of time a rights issue takes to arrange. Existing shareholders must be contacted and given time to make up



their minds. During those weeks the market could fall dramatically. Underwriting provides insurance for the company that the money will be there.

No one likes paying for insurance. and it is tempting to think, when fees are paid year after year but no claim is made, the money is wasted. This is a fallacy, of course - ask anyone who has been burgled and been under-insured.

Underwriting has been under attack for years, mainly from big American in-vestment houses that prefer their system of book-building, whereby new shares are simply auctioned to the highest bidders. Any attack on a guaranteed -almost — form of income inevitably generates enormous amounts of humbug.

The Americans claim their system is cheaper. This is questionable. City tradi-tionalists such as Mercury say the current regime protects smaller investors by preserving pre-emption rights, the abili-ty of existing investors to maintain control of the company by ensuring that any fresh equity is offered to them first. One is entitled to be cynical when big institutions purport to stand up for the rights of the smaller shareholder. Some smaller companies claim they are paying too much for fresh capital. Oddly enough, even though they have had the option for some time now of requiring the City to tender for the work, individual institutions setting the rate at which they will take on the underwriting, few have insisted on it.

There are probably two reasons. One, it is not the chairman's money, it is the company's - no skin off his nose if the advisers are paid over the odds. Two, if you start to allow the City to distinguish between individual share issues, some will indeed cost less. Some will cost more, though, if the shares are seen as a higher risk - for example, if the issue is part of a financial rescue. Go back to the insurance aspect — should we all pay roughly the same rate, or do some of us pay more than others?

o the MMC will have to examine all this. My betting would be that a couple of years down the line the underwriting system will still be the same, with perhaps a little more competitive tendering than we have seen in the past. Two per cent is clearly too much for a blue-chip issue that is almost certain to be taken up, even if one such, BP2

in 1987, did indeed flop.
It is not clear what the MMC can do if companies are prepared to pay the current rate, and most clearly are. The good news is that this is probably the best outcome.

But there is one improvement that could be made. At the moment the company's investment bank is usually the lead underwriter as well. This creates an obvious incentive for the bank to put pressure on the company to do things the traditional way, and safeguard its fees. Get rid of that conflict, and it will be easier to decide if there is genuine appetite for change.

How UK may end AFTER our article last week on the implications of the single currency for savers and mortgage borrowers, readers asked what the state pension up subsidising liabilities of the other Euroean states could mean for UK texpayers. We address the issue of whether we will be **Euro pensioners** footing the bill for the elderly of other member states.

Taxpayers in the UK ould lose out if joining 2 single European currency means supporting unfunded pension schemes in other EMU states. Apart from the UK, only the Irish Republic and The Netherlands fund their long-term pension liabilities. Every other EU country faces spiralling outlays as

Europe's population ages.
"It's no problem in the UK," explains Paul Johnson, deputy director of the Institute of Fiscal Studies. "Our state pension is pretty mean and we've got slightly less ageing to come, but basically our pensions are tied to equity out of current tax receipts."

State pension outlays account for about 5 per cent of UK gross domestic product (GDP) but at the other extreme Italy devotes 14 per cent (twice the EU average), and by 2020 the number of Italian pensioners is expected to

A report from the House of Commons Social Security Committee found that the UK could end up supporting our partners' underfunded pension schemes, but Mr Johnson is not sure such support would necessarily put up our tax bill.
Instead, Mr Johnson fore-

equal the total workforce.

es governments such as Italy's borrowing to meet their pension obligations. He says: "While this would not raise taxes it would force up interest remains sceptical. He expects

rates across the euro bloc." Borrowing costs would then rise, dampening business and opposite of what is supposed to happen with a single cur-rency. EMU members are nominally barred under the stability pact from borrowing above strict limits laid down in the Maastricht treaty.

EMU countries will not be liable to bail out their partners from commitments such as pensions provision. But analysis such as Anardrew Dawrant, who leads research at the National Asso-

aastricht, also makes it clear that

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governments to be forced by social and political pressures to put obligations to their pensioners before any under-takings to Brussels. "Maastricht borrowing limits will be widely circumvented in prac-tice; the Italians and probably the French will issue debt on a scale that will send interest rates soaring. Ultimately Europe collectively will pay their pension bills and Britain will get the short end of the stick." Homebuyers would be

Alternatively, Mr Johnson sees governments with pension troubles pleading to Brussels that if they are not allowed to borrow, then taxes must be raised centrally. This may not impose a heavier burden on the UK taxpayer, it might simply mean a bigger proportion of elosting tax revenue being siphoned off from London to Brussels. But that would still mean less public money being spent in the UK, to subsidise pension-

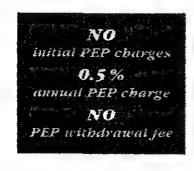
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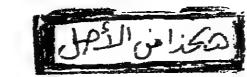
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Stakeholder delay is unforgiveable

ur highly imperfect pension system cannot be reformed Prime Time overnight. But the delays in announcing firm proposals for the ME VEHICLE stakeholder pension are beginning to suggest more than just a desire for proper deliberation.

This week ministers called for

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more consultation on the stakeholder pension, supposedly the central plank of the Government's pension policy. Since anyone involved in pensions has already made lengthy submissions on this subject, it seems strange that we are not closer to a set of rules. We are told that stakeholder pensions will possess every fiscal virtue, being low-cost, flexible and secure, but we still have no idea of exactly how they will improve the retirement lot of the millions of workers not covered by company schemes (see page 64).

The reason why the Government is keeping us in suspense would seem



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance Editor

to be its sensitivity on two issues compulsion and Scrps. There is widespread support for obliging workers to contribute a certain percentage of their income to stakeholder pensions, so ensuring a reasonable retirement income. But John Denham, Pensions Minister, merely cal-

led for more debate on compulsion. Presumably he is reluctant to reveal that a contribution of 10 per cent of earnings is seen as a desirable figure. Obviously he fears the cries of at such a suggestion. Maybe he is also wary about announcing a bonanza for his pinstripe pals. Compulsion could mean an extra £10 billion a year for the City to manage, a

Stakeholder pensions should logically spell the end of Serps, the additional state scheme for those in jobs without pensions, a Seventies relic with no retro appeal. Here again, Mr Denham preferred not to be specific. But millions currently rely on Serps. Their benefits have already been twice decreased. If the scheme were discontinued, what

future protection would they enjoy? Ministers should not be afraid of the awkward fact about pensions: a decent existence at 70 requires some sacrifice of lifestyle at 40.

Cold from the fridge

Private-client brokers are whining about the new Sets trading system. They say that its morning sickness puts investors at a disadvantage. making the spread, the difference between the buying and selling prices of shares, unacceptably wide (see page 63). Their complaints are justified. But the fluster at some firms arises not so much from concern for their clients but from unwillingness to take on the extra risk to themselves that the system involves. While this continues, ask about the spread before you deal.

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Under fire and uncovered

housands of tourists evacuated from Egypt this week will not be able to claim on their travel insurance policies for having their holiday cut short. The massacre at Luxor has exposed a loophole in travel insurance policies. As the tragedy was an act of terrorism. holidaymakers flown back this week will not be able to claim under curtailment or cancellation.

Holidaymakers not only lose the money spent on pre-paid accommodation but any other part of the tour. Even if the tour operator arranges flights home, policyholders are not refunded the cost of insurance — usually around £25 to £30 for adults for a fortnight in Europe.

Most travel insurance policies have a clause excluding claims arising from "war, invasion, act of foreign enemy, hostilities, civil war, rebellion, revolution. insurrection or military or usurped power". Home & Overseas, the in-

surer that provides cover for the customers of Thomas Cook and Thomson, is sticking firmly to this clause. Insurance companies are only likely to

Susan Emmett on a loophole that allows insurers

to avoid a payout in cases like the Luxor massacre

make an exception for claims for personal accident and medical emergencies. Vic Rance of the Association

of British Insurers said: "Most insurance companies have a clause excluding terrorism: Having said that, if somebody was injured in this attack insurers will be more helpful and pay for the medical treatment but are unlikely to pay for curtailment." Unless the Foreign Office

specifies that a country must be avoided, insurance companies are free to cover travelers. So far the Foreign Office has only "strongly advised" avoiding Luxor.

have to make their own arrangements and as insurance policies are unlikely to cover these costs, they will have to foot the bill themselves. Only one major travel insur-

Tourists who do not return on the emergency flights will

er, WorldCover Direct, does not include a "terrorism the event of terrorism, including cancellation and curtailment. The company scrapped the clause last year after a series of Basque terrorist bombings in Spain. Jonathan Biles, managing

director of WorldCover Direct. said: "We see terrorism as a normal part of the risks associated with travelling around the world and you have to take it into consideration. These attacks are a terrible thing to happen to our customers and it is not fair to just leave them out there. Statistically it does not happen that often."

None of the company's 15 customers visiting Egypt has decided to return on the special flights and the insurers will have to pay for their full accommodation and flight back. So far it has been estimated that this will cost the company at least £10,000.

However, some insurers are making an exception in this case and waiving the clause. Columbus Travel Insurance clause" and gives full cover in

has found a way of working around the wording and will pay our for curtailment of holiday. The company will continue to provide full cover for holidaymakers who remained in Egypt but those now buying travel insurance will not be covered for curtail-

ment or cancellation. Julie Philpott, marketing director at Columbus, said: Whenever anything like this has happened before, we have worked around the terms of the policy. In circumstances like these it is responsible to look after our customers."

Britain's biggest tour operator, brought back 1,346 customers this week and cancelled operations for the rest of the month Holidaymakers will be refunded some of their costs depending how long they had been in Egypt. First Choice, the sour opera

Major tour operators have

also made an exception and

have not only arranged flights

back but refunded some of the

cost of the holiday. Thomson,

tor used by three of the murdered Britons, brought back 115 customers, it will not be paying compensation but will refund holidaymakers pro-rata for the days lost. However, Airtours greeted its 351 customers in the airport with vouchers towards a holiday within L2 months.



The Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Luxor where 58 tourists were massacred this week

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THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

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To float or not to float?

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Float off or stay as you are? What is the long-term cost of immediate benefits?

than than the average windfall.

Demutualisation is an ugly word but has

benefited millions

of people. Or has it? Caroline Merrell looks

at the pros and cons

usuality may be a centuries-old concept. But until the middle of this decade it was, reassuring but little understood. Savers, borrowers and and policyholders were blissfully unaware of whether the financial institution they had their money with was a mutual or a not. Few realised that they were the true owners of these organisations. But today, the concept of mutuality has become very important for many,

when deciding where to put cash.
The stock market flotations of the formerly mutual Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich, Halifax, Norwich Union and Northern Rock, together with the takeovers of the Bristol & West and National & Provincial, have released £39 billion in cash and shares into the economy — equivalent to £1,700 for every adult in Britain.

Yet despite the obvious "feel-good" factor generated by the release of the money into the economy, companies are still convinced that remaining annual is the best way forward for their customers. Here The Times weighs up the arguments for and against mutuality.

FOR MUTUALITY: Some of the building societies that wish to retain their traditional status are handing back some of the benefits to customers in the form of higher savings rates and lower mortgage rates.

of mutuality include the Nationwide, Bradford & Bingley and Britannia. The B&B analysed how much acustomer could save by taking out a B&B discounted mortgage. At the end of the discounted period, the borrower would move to a variable rate. Over a six-year period, a customer would pay up to 4 per cent less on a £50,000 mortgage with the B&B than on an equivalent loan with the Halifax — a saving of more than £2,000, larger

research carried out by Which? the inumal building societies pay 0.3 per cent more interest than their converting counterparts. Research from the Bradford & Bingley shows that its instant access account pays 0.75 per cent more interest than the average

instant-access account. The life insurance companies claiming an overwhelming commitment to mutuality include Standard Life, Scottish Widows, Scottish Life and Equitable Life. According to Standard Life. mutual companies pay out 2 per cent more than average on personal pensions and endowment savings plans, while floated life insurance companies pay between 3 and 8 per cent less than

average.
As Standard Life points out, quoted companies have to satisfy the needs of both shareholders and policyholders. A spokesman said: "We would argue that 10 per cent of returns on the investment funds of companies that are floated on the stock market have to

be used to pay shareholders."

Standard Life claims that the penses charged by mutual life inurance companies are much lower than those at floated companies,

AGAINST MUTUALITY: The flo-tations of the Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester, Northern Rock and Norwich Union immediately enriched nearly a third of the population. About 7.6 million people benefited from Halifax free shares. Some of the beneficiaries had balances so small that they never derive an equal benefit

from mutuality packages.

The vast majority of shareholders benefited from a basic distribution of 200 shares, worth approximately E1,400. A Nationwide borrower would save only £1,400 on a £50,900 mortgage over a period of more than ten years. If the Halifax shareholder chose to hold on to the shares cather than sell them immediately the £1,400 windfall would have been worth £1,566 at its peak and £1,398 at yesterday's price.

According to the Bradford & Bingley, a £10,000 investment with the society would earn £75 more interest a year than an average account with a bank. It would take 22 years to make up the £1,400 windfall earned by the majority of members of the Halifax.

However, the case is not as clear-cut for insurance companies. Most of the members of the Norwich Union received shares worth £870 to £1,700. However, mutuais would pay out more in bonuses on their life policies.

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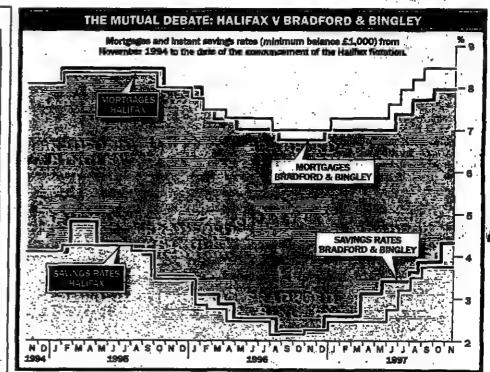


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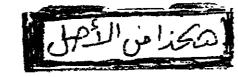
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How to keep inflation on your side

ithough inflation as a head-line grabber has taken a low profile in recent years, it is still out there, a fact illustrated by government figures released last week that showed retail prices were up by 3.7 per cent in the year to October 31. It was the highest inflation rate for two years and up slightly from the 3.6 per cent in the 12 months to September 30.

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The figures were only marginally worse than economists expected, but they were enough to change predictions, for the foresecable future, of bank base rates. City experts now say that rates will be between 7.75 and 8 per cent by next summer, compared with the current 7.25 per cent.

THE BAD NEWS

Inflation is calculated through the retail prices index, which is a basket of around 650 everyday goods which you might be expected to buy on a regular basis.

However, the major impact for most people in an inflationary economy is a rise in mortgage interest rates. The Bank of England tries to dampen consumer spending by raising interest rates, rising inflation almost certainly making it more expensive to

borrow money. For most people, the biggest single monthly bill they have to meet is to cover the cost of their home loan. When the Bank of England decides it must increase interest rates to cool the economy down, mortgage payers are likely

With every 1 per cent rise in the mortgage rate costing a homeowner with a £60,000 interest-only mortgage an extra £46 a month. people trying hard to pay for a roof over their heads soon start feeling the effects of anti-inflation-

ary government policy.

It is not only homeowners who pay. Financial institutions peg the rate at which they charge customers for borrowing money to the Bank of England base rate, so whether it is a large blue-chip company needing millions of pounds to finance a project, or a building society customer taking out a modest loan to buy a car, means the cost of borrowing rises.

THE GOOD NEWS

Every cloud has a silver lining and if you have paid off your mortgage and other loans and have money sitting in bank and building society deposit accounts, then inflation is good news.

Financial institutions need to strike a balance on the interest rates they charge for loans and pay on savings. When the cost of borrowing increases, because inflation has forced bank base rates up, then the interest you earn on savings should also increase.

HOW TO REACT

When inflation is relatively low, which despite recent rises is still the case in the UK today, it is important to look closely at your investments. Unless the rate of return is well above market averages, the chances are that rising

prices are reducing the value of vour savings.

John Givens weighs up the enemy, takes evasive action, and listens to the forecasts of the experts

According to Roddy Kohn of Kohn Cougar, the Bristol investment adviser, people with money sitting in low interest deposit accounts need to rethink their strategy. He said: "Bank and building society deposit accounts are offering low interest rates at the moment, which means that many people are seeing the value of their funds being devalued

almost on a daily basis. "This is particularly true of retired people who rely on income from savings to live on, because if their capital remains the same, in real terms its spending power is falling as inflation rises."

Mr Kohn believes the official

government inflation figures can mislead the public, who instead should be looking at the effects of "real" inflation. He said: "The retail prices index is an average of the price movements of a basket of goods containing hundreds of items, but if you are spending the majority of your income on the 20 per cent of these items which have shown the biggest price rises, then the real effect on the pound in

"For example, a litre of petro has gone up by between 10 and 15 per cent since the election, well above the official rate of inflation, and the same could be said of

your pocket is very different.

value of investments, funds need to be placed into equities and index-linked products like National Savings Certificates. "Investors should always look

He believes that to protect the

to have a balanced portfolio of equities, gilts and cash and buying into index-linked investments at least gives you a chance of your funds keeping ahead of inflation." The current tranche of Index-

linked National Savings Certificates pays tax-free income of 25 per cent, plus the prevailing underlying rate of inflation. You must keep them for five years or

wise, you can buy index-linked gilts - government-backed securities, which give an income and return your capital at a predetermined date in the future.

DON'T PANIC

The Bank of England's method of calculating inflation is often considered controversial because one of the two main indexes includes mortgage interest costs and another excludes them.

The index that shows price rises, including mortgages, is known as the headline rate of inflation and the figure which ignores home loans the underly-

To get an idea of how mortgage rates impact on inflation, the headline rate announced on Wednesday of 3.7 per cent is almost a full I per cent higher than the underlying rate of 28 per cent. The difference can confuse, Roger Bootle, chief economist of the HSBC Group and author of The

including mortgage interest payments in the inflation indexes is wrong. He said: "Mortgage payments might be the biggest monthly commitment for many people, but for many others it is not, especially those who are retired and have paid off their mortgage and have savings on

The headline rate of inflation does not accurately reflect how prices are performing in the shops and the underlying rate gives a much truer measure of what is

THE OUTLOOK

Mr Bootle believes the recent rise in inflation is part of a short-term trend which will reverse itself in the next year. "I expect the headline rate of inflation to rise from the current level of 3.7 per spring of 1998 before falling to 2.5 per cent by the end of the year, and the underlying rate to stay much the same until next spring before falling to around 2.25 per

When mother is gone

Caroline Merrell

on investments

for children where the heart of the

family is missing

ith Christmas only a month a way, the time might be right to consider putting some money aside for children, even if they belong to someone else. Louisa Puttock, of Bournemouth, whose friend Elsa Baldock died leaving three child-ren, aged five, seven and ten, wants to invest £1,000 for each

Financial advisers give warning against setting up a trust for the children, pointing out that costs of forming such a vehicle can outweigh the advantages. Under trust arrangements, the person giving the money can keep control over where it ends up. Chris Wicks, of Kidson Impey Scott Lang, the financial adviser. said: "A trust means that you can alter who you want to give the money to, if one of the children suddenly becomes

He says that forming a trust could cost £250, a big slice of the gift. Instead, Mr Wicks and other advisers recommend National Savings as one low-risk way to give children

National Savings offers a five-year fixed-rate Children's Bond currently paying 6.75 per cent interest tax-free. Advisers say that the only risk is that interest rates rise above the 6.75 per cent fix. The maximum that can be invested in the bond is £1,000. Economists believe that interest rates may go a little higher, which could disadvantage those locked into this product. After five years, the money could be invested in another set of savings bonds.

Other low-risk products include children's accounts offered by many banks and building societies. The Birmingham Midshires offers an instant-access account paying 6.75 per cent interest, and the Britannia offers an instantaccess account paying 7.25 per cent. NatWest has a five-year savings bond with a minimum



investment of £1,000 and 7.25 per cent fixed interest, paid tax free upon maturity.

and eight years from majority. advisers say it is possible to take a little more risk with the money. On the whole, unit trusts are the investment vehicle favoured, although Mr Wicks would consider a ten-year savings plan with Tunbridge Well pointing out that the eldest child would have to wait until age 20

Friendly societies' savings plans benefit from tax relief on the investment, and, because lump sump at maturity is also

or talk to your Independent Financial Adviser.

Because the children are 13, 11 en Meehan, the adviser, recomtional fund," she said.

sees ethical investments as an in companies linked to gambefore it matured. United Charities Ethical fund.

tax free. Mr Wicks says buyers should study the charges. Amanda Davidson, of Hold-

mends unit trusts. These invest in a range of shares. She says the duration of the investment permits more risk. "I would put 50 per cent of the money in the UK, with the rest in an interna-

Dani Glover, an adviser with Fiona Price & Partners, option. These avoid investing bling, tobacco or arms. She points to Family Assurance's She says that one advantage of this fund, which has a 6 per

cent initial charge and a 1.1 per cent annual charge, is that it comes packaged with a "bare trust" - a trust under which the children could be named as beneficiaries. The trust is no extra cost.

Mr Wicks recommends internationally diversified trusts. These may be volatile, but, over long periods, can outperform other investments. "I recommend international funds from Guinness Flight, Fidelity and Mercury," he

Although children cannot hold the trusts, they can be nominated by their benefac-tor. So, any income drawn is

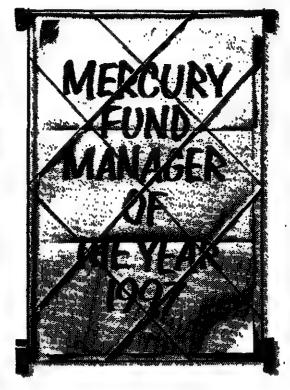


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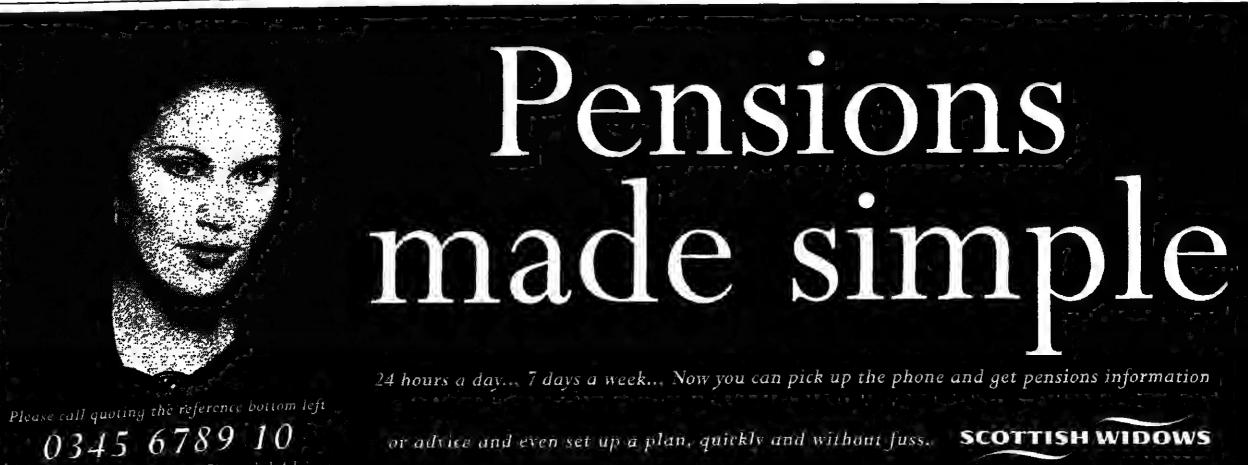
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guaranteed and, as the well worn adage points out, can go down as well as up. Investing directly in a handful of shares is very risky because there is a strong chance that one of the companies will perform badly or even go belly-up. Collective investment schemes such as unit trusts and investment trusts offer a way of mini-mising risk of investing in equities. These pool investors'

money, gaining them access to a wider spread of shares than would otherwise be possible. Some unit trusts are highly speculative, investing in single countries, for example. Others are broadly based and offer relatively low levels of risk.

Protective unit trusts that

Fast cars, country houses and emotic holidays are probably top of most people's list of things to buy should they come into an inheritance. But when reality strikes — which it does for an increasing number of people as £17 billion is bequeathed to friends and

relatives every year — common sense usually prevails and people realise that they must invest their windfall

sensibly. Many of these people will not have had large sums of money to invest before and will be uncertain about the best course of action. Here Weekend Money

advises on the best course of action.

'ust because you see yourself as a medium-risk

investor does not mean all your investments have to be

medium-risk ones. You can

construct a portfolio that contains some very low-risk investments, evened out by some

higher-risk ones so that the

overall risk profile is medium.

marketing manager at Chase de

Vere, said: "History has shown

that stock market investments

produce the best returns over

time in terms of both capital

However, investment re-

turns from equity are not

gains and rising income."

lan Millward, investment

use derivatives to limit the effect of downturns in the stock market, while offering exposure to the upside, are lower risk than normal unit trusts. Again, these do vary. Some offer complete protection of capital, while others put a small proportion of capital at risk in return for the prospect of higher gains. Jonathan Gumpel, investment director of Brook Macdonald Gayer, said for the lower end of the medium-risk spectrum he would recommend protected funds such as the Close Brothers Escalator 95 Fund, which protects 95 per cent of capital and offers exposure to the upside in stock markets. "This is lower risk than a standard growth unit trust and inves-

tors are not having to pay a big premium to get the protection." Index tracking unit trusts, such as those offered by Legal & General and Virgin Direct, are also at the lower end of the useful part of a portiolio. In a sense, these remove the dilemma of choosing a top performing group because the fund simply goes up and down in line with whichever index it is

"Investors do need to appreciate, however, that these funds will go down if the index goes down. And, unlike actively managed funds, where the fund manager attempts to limit the downside of falls in the stock market and to capture the upturn, index funds can never outperform the in-dex," said Mr Millward.

Those seeking a mediumrisk investment strategy would be well advised to have the bulk of their investment at least 50 to 60 per cent - in the UK, with the balance invested internationally to achieve diversification.

Michael Owen, a director of Plan Invest, the firm of independent financial advisers based in Macclesfield, said: "I would direct people looking for medium risk towards creating a portfolio of collective investment schemes."

Reliable long-term performers in the income sector include Perpetual High Income Unit Trust, Lazard's income Trust or GT's Income Trust, he said. Good capital growth funds and Perpetual UK Growth, he added. For the slightly more adventurous, River & Mercantile First Growth Unit Trust,

investment trusts can trade at a premium, which means that the trust is so popular that the share price is higher than the actual value of the underlying asset. People are prepared to pay over the odds because they want to buy shares in that particular trust.

Mr Millward said: "We find many investors, particularly first-time investors, struggle with the concept of investment trusts and are therefore better suited to unit trusts."

Several years ago, invest-ment trusts were hailed as a Mr Owen also has some superior alternative to unit reservations about investment trusts. "The discounts on some trusts because the charges were lower and, arguably, investment trusts are huge and still widening." he cauperformance was better. More recently, however, investment

However, some financial

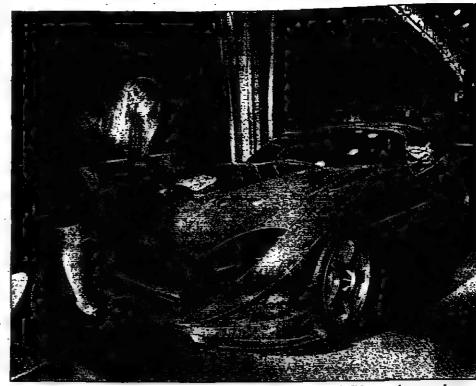
outset. Investors in zeros have first call on the assets when a trust is wound up, so should there be any shortfall in assets, zero dividend preference shareholders would take

It is important to take professional advice before buying zeros because not all those available on the market are the same. Some require less growth in the underlying assets to meet the trusts' obligations to investors than others.

Finally, it is worth noting that many unit trusts and investment trusts can be bought, at little or no extra cost, through a personal equity plan (Pep), offering the opportunity to ahelter income and future capital gains from tax.

A current favourite with many financial advisers is the Pidelity Triple Performance Pep. This invests in three of Fidelity's existing unit trusts to gain exposure to the UK. Europe and the Far East. Some 50 per cent of the fund is invested in Fidelity's Special Situation Trust, 25 per cent is invested in the European Trust and the balance is invested in the South-East Asia Trust. Investors, therefore, gain exposure to a range of international sectors. Although the Pep's package was only launched in February last have ten-year track records. Statistics show that E6,000 invested ten years ago in the same fund, in the same proportions, would now be worth £25,087. This represents an annualised growth of 15.4 per

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There is a chance for you to make gains as the trust discount narrows

with investors and many are currently trading at a significant discount to net asset

blue chip and smaller com-panies, is suitable. This fund

rose 100.3 per cent over three

years to October 1. Similarly,

Mercury Recovery Unit Trust

might be considered. This

trust rose 95.07 per cent over

the benefits of collective invest-

ment schemes, investors need to decide whether to invest in

unit trusts, investment trusts

trusts have gone out of favour

or a combination of the two.

Having been convinced of

the same period.

Investment trusts are themselves companies that invest in, other companies to maximise. returns for their shareholders or investors. The share price is dictated not only by the performance of the underlying assets but also by the level of demand for the shares. It is entirely possible for an investment trust to be performing well yet, for some reason, it is out of share price to be less than the actual value of the underlying assets. So the share price might be 75p, while the assets are actually worth, say, 95p.

advisers see the current situation as a good buying opportunity. Mr Gumpel is entirusiastic about investment trusts. We think now is the time to buy investment trusts. I realise. that investors who bought investment trusts several disappointed by the returns they have seen. But if you buy in when a trust is at a discount there is a chance for you to make gains as the discount ", awornan

Zero dividend preference shares of split capital investment trusts offer a very lowrisk form of investing in shares. Zeros offer a predetermined, fixed rate of capital growth that is known at the

year, the underlying trusts all 🌇

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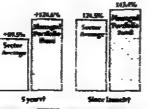
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Protected: Mark Douglass, right, and Garry Schonewald

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

M ark Douglass and Garry Schonewald had no doubts about how their company would be formed when they set up Conex Data Communica tions in Sunderland ten

The two, then both 24 and technical officers with British Telecons, were advised to become a fimited company to make sure their liability would be limited to the original capital they put into the business.

Although they were confident their idea to offer computer networking the venture involved buying in expensive supplies on behalf of customers and they decided that they wanted the reassurance of limited liability in the event that the business did not take off.

Like many business start-ups, they bought a £100 imited company off the shelf, got their solicitor to set

panies for work.

Although the pair were protected by company law, they need not have worried. After bringing in £26,000 in its first year of trading, Conex Data Communications has become a national organisation employing 33 people and expected to turn over more than £2 million in the year to next March 31.

lives with his wife and two sons in Cleadon, Tyne and Wear, says setting up as a limited concern allowed them to concentrate on establishing the business. He said: "Because we were having to buy hardware and cable for customers before we were paid we were advised to become a limited company from day one. Although we believed our venture would work, it helped to know that we anything did go wrong."

Choose the company you want to keep

faced with when you decide to start a small business is whether to set up as a sole trader, a partnership or as a limited company. The decision you make will affect how you do business and possibly how people you deal with react.

SOLE TRADER

The quickest and easiest way to ge started is as a sole trader. You become the proprietor of the business and the technicalities of starting as a self-employed worker are kept to the minimum. You will need to inform the tax office of your status and also register with the VAT authorities if you expect your turnover to be more than £49,000 in the first year of trading.

You will be able to continue to use your existing bank account if you trade in your own name, but you must keep statements to prove to the taxman what your income and outgoings for the business have been.

You are responsible for the financial liabilities of your business. If you cannot cover debts, your house, car and other assets could be lost. You do not have to register your company name, but your own name must appear on company notepaper if you trade under a different title.

PARTNERSHIP

By definition, partnerships are enterprises that exist to make a profit and they are

number of partners needed to set up a partnership is two, while there is no maximum. You are technically selfemployed and you will have to look after your own tax and national insurance.

Like marriages, partnerships can end up in acrimony. For this reason it is vital that a watertight partnership agreement is drawn up that outlines how the company will operate and what happens in the case of disputes or if one of the partners leaves the company or dies. It will cost about £500 to draw up a straightforward agreement. If you want to protect your trading name it will cost you a further £500 to have it trademarked.

LIMITED COMPANY

The biggest single benefit of making your business a limited company is that if the company fails leaving debts, you are only personally liable for the amount of capital you put into the venture in the first place or

any other capital you have legally promised to introduce in the future.

However, if you have given directors' personal guarantees to a bank, the lender is likely to be hot on your trail. Also, if it can be proved the company continued to trade when it was insolvent and unable to meet its debts, the directors could be held responsible for the extra losses incurred.

One person can set up a limited company and hold all the shares, although in this case there must be at least one other office bearer, such as a company secretary or treasurer. The biggest problem with setting up a limited company is all the legal paperwork and regulations the company must meet. You can buy a company already incorporated "off the shelf" — typically for £100.

Limited companies must file annual accounts to Companies House. As a director of a limited company you must also hold an annual meeting (AGM) and make sure all shareholders receive a set of accounts and an invitation to the AGM, where they will be eligible to vote.

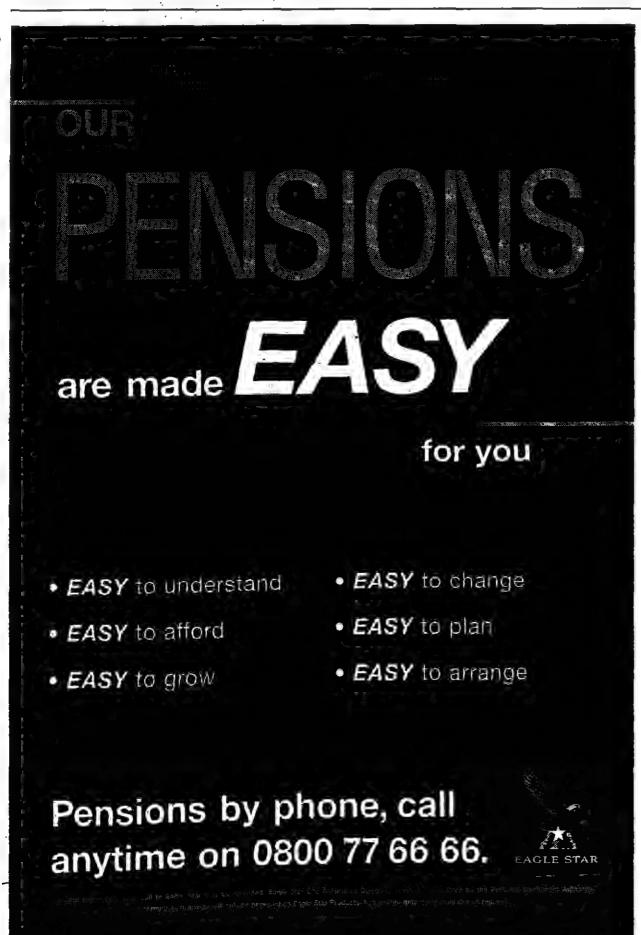
If you become a limited company your self-employed status changes and you become an employee of the business, paying tax and national insurance on your income — now regarded as a salary.

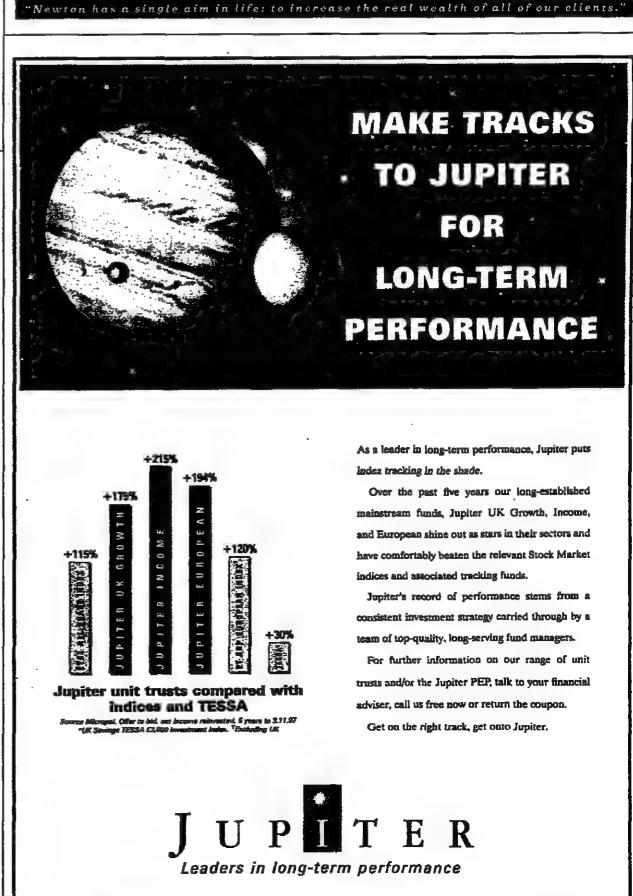
Profits made by the business after expenses have been deducted will be subject to corporation tax.

JOHN GIVENS

Mr Douglass, 34, who

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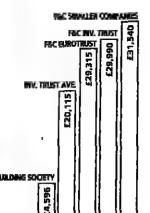


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Paying the price upfront

In the second of a two-part series,

Patrick Collinson looks at the cost of financial advice on a fee basis

uying financial products on a fee rather than commission basis has been the mantra of consumer organisations for years. But consumers could be in for a shock when they see the price of fee-based advice — up to

£150 an hour. A Weekend Money survey of four fee-based financial advisers found that the fee for arranging a pension is typically about £500-£600, while that for regular annual or biannual reviews of your finances can exceed £1,000.

There is also a sting from VAT. When a life insurance company pays a salesman commission, there is no VAT charge. But if a client opts for a fee instead of commission, the Inland Revenue levies an extra

But though fees look pricey, the commission alternative is usually worse. The £500-£600 fee for arranging a pension compares well against the typ-ical commission of £1,000plus. Fees can be offset against the commission, or the client can pay the fee and the commission is refunded into the policy, enhancing returns.

The long-held suspicion confirmed by the £4 billion pensions mis-selling scandal that financial salesmen are driven by the prospect of bagging huge commissions rather than concern for the genuine needs of the client has seen a surge in demand for feebased advice in recent years. Roddy Kohn, a financial adviser and member of the Personal Investment Authority board, said: "Fees are there

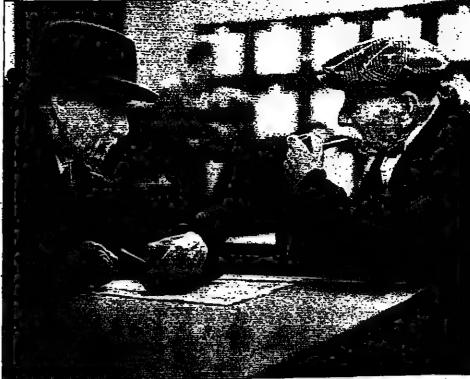
rightly do not trust financial advisers. Fees give a client peace of mind that commission is not the driving force behind the advice given."

But fees are not the panacea to end mis-selling. Chris-Wicks, a fee-based adviser at Kidson Impey Scott Lang said: Fees tend to occupy the moral high ground but there are pros and cons for both. It's a question of personal preference. Fees do not automatically mean discounted or cheap

Weekend Money asked four firms of independent fee-based advisers to set out the initial consultation fee, hourly fee and the cost for doing a yearly reivew of a client's finances. We also asked each adviser for its fee to arrange a pension for a 35-year-old aiming to retire at 60 and able to afford £200 per month premium.

The result — a fee of between £500-£600 was remarkably similar from one firm to the next in spite of widely varying hourly rates. This suggests consumers should not be guided by the hourly rate alone. All the advisers contacted said they will offer potential clients an estimate of how much the final bill will be for giving advice, around to find the best deal.

Remember that once you agree to take fee-based advice. you are entering a legally enforceable contract. Nearly all the advisers contacted by Weekend Money had chased one or two clients through the small claims courts for unpaid



When clients see the cost of fee-based financial advice they can be in for quite a shock

Chamberlain de Broe

Initial consultation: free Hourly fee: £85 Average annual fee: Depends on number of hours, Typically 12 per year, making £1,020. Pension arrangement fee minimum six hours (£510) plus extra for complex cases. Other information: Unlike other advisers contacted by Weekend Money, Chamberlain de Broe does not charge

VAT on its fees. It says it is not VAT-registered and the Inland Revenue regards its charges as in lieu of commission and therefore not liable for VAT Contact: 0171-434 4222

Kidson Impey Scott Lang. Manchester

Initial consultation: free. Hourly fee: £135-£145 plus VAT for each hour spent with an adviser, £35 an hour for time spent on administrative functions.

Average annual fee: £250-£500 plus £50 per month. Final bill redited/debited depending on hours spent on case.

Pension arrangement fee: £500 plus VAT, assuming no existing policy problems.
Other information: Hourly rates vary according to complexity of case. Contact: 0161-236 7733.

Kohn Cougar, Bristol Initial consultation E95 plus

Hourly fee: £80-£120 plus VAT. Average annual fee: Annual

retainer £95 plus VAT. Pension arrangement fee: £250-£600 plus VAT depend-

ing on complexity of case. Other information: Kohn Cou-gar says the initial fee is to reassure clients that any advice is entirely objective. This advice may be that the individual's circumstances do not recommend buying any policy. Contact: 01179-466384.

Robson Rhodes, London Initial consultation free Hourly fee: £150 plus VAT. Junior assistants charged at £75 an hour.

Average annual fee: £1,000 plus VAT for an annual review, though for large clients the fee could be "several thousands". Pension arrangement fee:

£300-£400 absolute minimum. Other information: Specialist

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You get what you see with A&L's Eurotop

nvestors need a degree in geography, maths and financial jargon to inderstand most of the guaranteed equity bonds on the market. So it makes a refreshing change to come across a new product that is simple, straightforward and relatively easy for the investor to track.

Alliance & Leicester's Guaranteed European Stockmarket Bond prominvestor's original capital after five years. On top of this, it will pay all the growth in a European index over the same period. The bond will track the FTSE Eurotop 100 index, which follows the performance of Europe's biggest companies. Many of the companies are familiar household names such as Marks & Spencer,

Shell, Volvo, L'Oreal and Nestlè. FTSE Eurotop is listed every day in the Financial Times. Over the past seven years the index has risen by 200 per cent. However, even in the unlikely event that the index repeats this performance, investors will find the growth of their investment limited to 100 per cent. This allows a potential

doubling of their investment. To determine the start and finish points for the bond's growth over the five-year period, Alliance & Leicester



Eurotop's closing price every day for the first and the last six months. This should help to protect investors from any sharp fluctuations in share prices.

The bond goes live on January 5, nearly four weeks after applications close. To compensate investors for any loss of interest in the interim. Alliance & Leicester will pay a 0.5 per cent bonus on investments made before

November 28. Alliance & Leicester has incorporated running costs into the bond's return so investors need not worry about additional charges. For once, what they see is what they get.

The bond is being sold direct through branches and via telephone applications (0800 102020), and does not pay commission to intermediaries. In spite of this, it has gone down well with independent financial advisers.

Davidson of Holden Meehan, an independent financial adviser based in London, said: "It would make a good entry for someone who is investing in the European market for the first time. She likes the fact that investors are guaranteed the return of their money, and considers the upper growth limit respectable for

ther independent advisers also approve of linking the bond to a European index. Richard Spencer of Brooks Macdonald Gayer, the London independent financial adviser, thinks Europe offers good growth potential over the next five

He says: "Europe is behind us in the economic cycle, so earnings should continue growing. There is a lot of corporate restructuring going on, and scope for mergers and cost-cutting all things which have already happened in the UK and US - which should

improve shareholder value. There are some problems - the unions are stronger, for example, but that should be dissipated over time."
Alliance & Leicester has set a £5,000 minimum and £100.000 maximum for investments in the bond. Investors

who are intending to apply should remember that their money will be committed for five years. Money withdrawn before January

4, 2003, will no longer benefit from the money-back guarantee. Alliance & Leicester will calculate early cash-in values on an individual basis, taking into account investment performance and administration costs. Anyone who few months is not likely to get all their money back. Assuming the index grows at 5 per cent, someone investing £10,000 would just get their money back after one year. £10,500 at the end of the second year, and £11,700 after

four years. Returns from bonds are treated as income and taxed at the basic rate. This tax cannot be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue, making the bond an unsuitable investment for lower or non-tax payers. Higher-rate taxpayers will be liable to pay the difference between the basic rate and the higher

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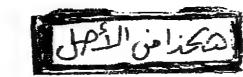
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April 23.85

Patrick Collinson finds contrasting views over a fund's strategy

Is small going to be beautiful again?

s millions of Spaniards switch on the country's the Day on Saturday night, the phones start buzzing at Telepizza, a home delivery pizza chain. Pizza is the new passion for Spaniards in Europe's fastest-growing fast-food market.

Telepizza's phenomenal growth from one Madrid takeaway in 1989 to nearly 300 today has seen it overtake Pizza Hut and Burger King and challenge McDonald's for market dominance in Spain.

Guinness Flight, the London investment manager, picks Telepizza as typical of the sort of rapidly-growing small European company that is unknown to British investors but offers enormous potential. Since it was floated last year on the Madrid bourse Telepizza's share price has more than tripled, and stockbrokers still rate it a buy.

Next week Guinness Flight haunches two funds for investors wanting a stake in smaller companies outside of the UK. The Global Smaller Companies fund will build a portfolio of smaller company shares across the world, while the **European Smaller Companies** fund will invest in small and mid-sized companies in Europe outside of the UK. investing in smaller com-

panies is currently the vogue among investment managers. Fidelity Investments is heavily promoting its smaller company trusts and small company specialist M&G believes now is the right time to get back into small companies.

The reason is that during the great bull run that swept world stock markets until the recent turmoil, smaller companies lagged behind as giant stocks such as Glazo Wellcome and HSBC roared away.

A large gap opened between the valuations of big blue chip companies and smaller company shares, which investment managers now expect will close. The first evidence has come from the recent stock. market mayhem, in which smaller company stocks have generally remained firm while blue chips have suffered.

Andrew Couch ; Guingers, Flight's head of equipes, said: "Now is a great environment. for smaller companies. Longterm low inflation, low interes rates and a low cost of capital benefit smaller companies all round the world. They have already produced the profits growth, but we've not yet seen

it in the share performance." Simon Davies, an investment adviser at Berry Asset Management in Chelsea, says the timing is excellent for smaller company investment. - but only in the UK, Europe and the US, not the Far East or Japan. He said: "The timing, in terms of pure economics, is right. But our view is that things will continue to look



Even Pamela Anderson's charms could not help Pizza Hut to halt the relentless rise of Telepizza

Others are less sure about the strength of the smaller companies argument. Mark Dampier, of Churchill Invest-ments, said: "There's a big but. The argument seems to be that small companies have done oversimplif-

ause of technology

very nimbly run operations which keep an eye on costs."

company funds is also a cause ed: "European smaller companies are as volatile as Hong Kong or even worse. You can bet that when the US falls 10 per cent, Europe will fall much further. You find that smaller companies are either top of the pops or pretty awful."

Mr Davies agrees. He said: "For quite considerable periods of time these funds will be

out of favour. Small company shares tend to move in fits and Charles ."

A smaller company fund is not the right move for a firsttime investor, says Mr Davies, but it makes a good alternative badly for the past five years so in the next five years they will automatically do better. It's an buy emerging markets funds.

"If you want to buy an emerging :: fund, why not buy US smaller companies

buying Brazil? It makes a lot

for the younger, less riskaverse investor who has enough cash to put money aside for the long term. Ste-phen Lansdown, joint managing director of Hargreaves Lansdown, said: "If I was talking to a first-time investor. this fund, but for someone with adequate funds and who can look ten years out, then this is OK."

Is Guinness Flight the right home for an investor wanting to put money into a smaller company fund? Every big investment company offers a UK smaller-company unit trust, though funds specialising outside the UK are less common.

Mr Davies said: "Guinness Flight has good figures in the US and Asia, but in the UK and Japan they are third and fourth quartile. I like the story on smaller companies, but I do finve concerns about Guinness Flight — do they have the perform?"

Hargreaves Lansdown shares similar concerns. Mr Guinness Flight fund, but neither would they be my first choice. They are middle of the road for growth and not as consistently good as Schroders or Perpetual."

Berry Asset Management: ***
Churcinil Investments: ***
Hargreaves Lansdown: *** Products graded from * (poor).

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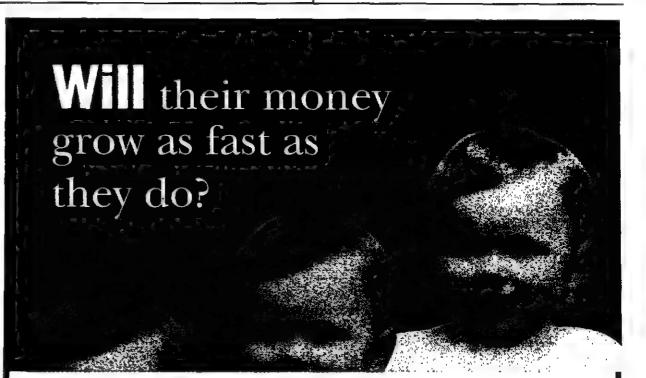
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The Investment Trust Experts

AMP members start counting their cash

Two million members of Australia Mutual Provident (AMP) voted overwhelminglythis week to ap-prove the life insurer's plans to demutualise and float on the Australian and New Zealand stock markets. Thousands of UK members of AMP voted by post before the general meeting in Sydney on Thursday. A total of 171,000 qualifying customers resident in the UK. will now receive an estimated windfall of £2,500 on flotation next May.

The flotation will turn AMP into one of the tenth largest listed companies in Australia. A general meeting and members' vote was held at a concert hall in Darling Harbour, Sydney, on Thursday and 98 per cent of people who voted. voted in favour. The mutual needed a 75 per cent vote in favour in order to press

Only UK residents who hold qualify-

ing policies with AMP UK and London Life, which merged with AMP in 1989, will benefit from windfall shares. Mem-bers of Pearl, which is owned by AMP. will not receive shares because Pearl is a proprietary company.

Nor will members of subsidiary companies of London Life. Policyholders with London Life Linked Assurances and London Life Managed Fund will not qualify because they were not given membership at the time of the 1989 merger. This also applies to some AMP subsidiary companies based in Australia.

ta similar general meeting prior to AMP's merger with London Life in 1989, so many members turned up to vote at a hall in the Barbican in London that the meeting broke down and had to be reconvened in the Café Royal. The board of AMP recommended

prospectus is now expected to be issued in March or April, followed by a listing in May Each member will receive an average of 500 free shares which will be quoted in Australian dollars. David Davies, deputy managing director of AMP (UK) said the insurer had not made a final decision on whether shares would also be listed on the UK stock market. A

UK listing is expected in 1999.

He added: "We are expecting the shares to be worth the equivalent of £3.99 to £4.70 each, giving members an average £2,500 windfall. We are currently looking into setting up a service to allow people to deal if they wish to sell their shares or buy more. We are still in the process of looking at ways to do this, and the service will be cheap but probably not free."

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Share dealing by phone numbers

out automated share dealings by means of a telephone key pad. Charles Schwab (formerly ShareLink) has announced the launch of TouchTone Trader.

Using a PIN, customers can buy and sell shares by inputting stock codes on their telephone key pad. These stock codes cover more than 2.000 London shares, including AIM stocks and investment trusts.

According to Charles Schwab, however frantic the markets, customers will have quick access to their broker. In addition to the dealing, investors can check the balance of account, details of individual holdings, FTSE movements and total portfolio value. Call 0870-601 8888 for more details.

As an active investor you will win some and you will lose some. The Investor's Guide to Short-Term Trading & Long-Term Investing believes it holds the secret to winning more often.

According to the book, different strategies are required for short-term trading and long-term investing. The book advises how to understand the

Out automated share out automated share achievable targets for growth and minimise tax liabilities. In bookshops priced £25 (Pit-man Publishing).

> ■ Rather than merely learning from your own trading mistakes, learn from those of others: this is the message of The Mind of a Trader. It explores the trading philosophies, behaviour and tactics of the world's top traders, identifying their successful strategies and mental attitudes. It covers all assets from equities and currencies to commodities. Available in bookshops priced £24.99 (Pitman Publishing).

> ■ A guide to investment information sources for the private investor has been produced by ProShare. The guide summarises the wide range of sources now available, from traditional paperbased information to the latest electronic media, and assesses each product featured for their ease of use and value for money. Available from ProShare (0171 394 5200) priced £5.95 including postage and packing.

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SAVERS BEST BUYS						
INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rete	interest paid	
Irish Permanent 0800 973321 G&G (wef 1.12.97) 0800 742437 Legal & General Bank 0500 111200 Alliance & Leic 0845 6088860	ExtraPost Inst Inst Transfer Direct Access First Cls Inst	Postal InstantB Postal Postal	£1,000 £1,000 £2,500 £10,000	6.75 7.25 7.15 7.50		
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid	
Bristol & West 0800 202121 Leeds & Holbeck BS 0500 225777 Legal & General Bank 0500 111200 Bristol & West 0800 202121	Postel 30 Albion 30 60 Direct Fix for Six	30 day p 30 day p 60 day p 6 month	£10,000 \$25,000 £10,000 £5,000	7.85 7.00 7.75 7.75F	Yly Yly OM	
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid	
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650 Yorkshire BS 0800 378836 Principality BS 01222 344188 Hanley Economic BS 0800 838811	Premier+feeder	5 year 5 year 5 year 5 year	29,000 \$2,000 \$2,500 \$1,000	7.85 7.65 7.65 7.60	Yly Yly Yly Yly	

5 y	ear £2	,500 7.6	5 Yi
DIT CARDS BE	ST BUYS	4 75	
Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per
Visa Advantage Visa MasterCard/Visa	0.64%N 0.64%NC 1.00%	7.90%N 7.90%N 14.00%	NI NI £12
	Card type Visa Advantage Visa	5 year 52 5 year 51 DIT CARDS BEST BUYS Interest per month Visa 0.84%N Advantage Visa 0.84%NC	5 year \$2,500 7.6 5 year \$1,000 7.8 DIT CARDS BEST BUYS Interest per month APR% Visa 0.64%N 7.90%N 7.90%N 7.90%N

Monthly payment on 25,000 for 3yrs with insurance no insurance PERSONAL LOANS 12.80%A 2183.75 £166.38 Direct Line 0181 680 9966 £189,48 Capital One Direct 0800 216252 12.90% £166.54 £187.73 Alliance & Leic Grp 0990 626262 13.30% £167.56

> Building S 0800 291291

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

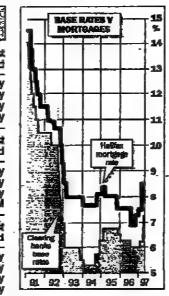
NB. A = Minimum age 22 years. B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable). N = Introductory rate for a limited period, OM = Interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

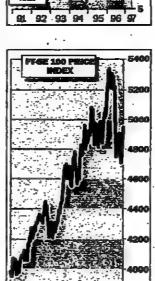
**PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

**Source: Money-Faces the Monthly Guide to Investment & Montgage Rates (01692 500 677)

PIBS



مكذا من رلامل



2.35% discount for 2 years

	Gross rate	At ta: 20%	40%	Min/maximum Ervestmat C	Notice	Contact
	4 50		0.90	10-10.000**		0845 645000
Ordinary A/c1	1.50	1.20	2.85	1-499**7	1mth	0845 645000
nvestment A/c*s	4.75	3.80	200	,000-25,000**	Smilh	0545 64500X
ncome Bond* s	6.50	5.20	3.902	000 20 000**		0645 645000
₹rst Opt Bond₄	6.75	5.40	4.051	,000-20,000**	Sdav	0645 645000
4th Issue Certt2:	5.35			100-10,000	1min	0645 645000
zh∦dren's Band†	6.75			25-1,000	111m1	0645 645000
Sen Ext Rate	3.51				Ordera	0645 845000
Capital Bonds a	8.65	5,32	3.99	100-250,000	Bday	0645 645000
1th Ind Linkedts	2.75			100-10,000	8day	
ensors Bond S3	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000%	60day	0645 645000
first £70 [£140 jt] of einvested proceeds 10,2% net bones for £ oned in full, "£500-100	int tax :	501/10	ansgra	anistrion to 51 at	d 52 hold	lational hidgs to in held for 5 year ngs • Tanable bu

purchase), guarantee SINGLE LIFE (level ann)		Age 60	Age 65	Age 7
Canada Lifei.evel		£ 9,105	£10,200	£11,68
Standard LifeLevel		€ 9,044	£10,136	£11,58
Sun Lf of CanLevel		€ 9,062	£10,122	£11,56
Scottish Widows Level		£ 9,100	£10,120	£11,50
Legal & GeneralLevel		E 9,045	210,073	£11,36
SINGLE LIFE	Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 7
Canada LifeLavei		28,367	E 9,222	£10,42
PrudentiaiLevel		C8,388	E 9,205	£10,64
GeneraliLevel		56,227	£ 9,159	£10,43
Sun Lf of CanLevel	•	28,306	2 9,067	£10,17
Scottish Widows _Level		58,290	£ 8,960	€ 9,95
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 7
(level annuity)	Female	Age 55	Age 60	Age 6
GeneraliLevel		£7,855	€8,512	€ 9,41
Sun Li of CanLeval		27.915	£8,511	€ 9,35
ProdentialLevel		£7,901	€8,445	€ 9,17
Scotlish Widows Level		27,927	£8,424	£ 9,09
Equitable LifeLavel		£7.807	£8,384	១ ១,19

%	Interest	Loen	Max	
Lender	rate %	Size	%	Notes
Building Socie	ties			
Newbury	4.85	. £30-100k	95	3% discount for
01635 43676				1 year
Mensield	2.20	\$25-250k	30	6% discount-6 min
01246 202066				Further dac apply
Clay Cross	5.25	£15-100k	95	3% discount for
01246 862120				1 year
Banks	4 *			
Brik of Incland	0.99	£20-145k	96 .	. Fixed for 6 mths,

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

For a co

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

	Rates as at		
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	6.38
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	8.75
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.15
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.00
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.75
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
4 Years			
	1.000	Hambro Assured	6.20
	3,000	III London & Ed	6.15
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.15
	10,000	ITT Landon & Ed	0.05

ITT London & Ed

FIXED RATE	Gross	Buying price	% Gross yield	lasue price	Minimur purchas amour
Birmingham Midshin	es 9.375%	120.75	7.760	100.17	1,00
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	149.00	7.800	100.13	10,00
Bradford & Bingley	15,000%	168.50	7.810	100.20	10,00
Britannia	13.000%	166.75	7.300	100.42	1,00
Coventry	12.125%	156.00	7.770	100.75	1,00
First National	11.750%	152.00	7.730	100.25	10,00
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	172.25	7.760	100.23	1,00
Newcastle	10.760%	140.50	7.650	100.32	1,00
Newcastle	12.625%	164,75	7,680	100,45	1,00
Skipton	12.875%	167,50	7.690	100.48	1,00
PERPETUAL SU	BORDINA	LED BOI	NDS.		
Cheft & Gloucester	11.750%	154.00	7,630	100,98	50,00
Hallfax	8.750%	113.25	7.730	100.62	50,00
Halifax	12.000%	148.00	B.100	100.28	50,00
Halifax	13.630%	178.50	7.630	100,00	50,00
Bristol & West	13,380%	170.00	7.670	100.34	7,00
Northern Rock	12,625%	162.95	7.760	100.14	1,00

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares. Source NetWest Markets BALARIZ IN FOCUSE: MITINGUITY AGGET MAMAGINEERT	PISS - Permanent internet-bearing shares. Source NetWest Markets SHARE IN FOCIES MINIQURY ASSET MANAGEMENT 1700 PRICE SOMES AFTER MESSED TAXABOVER 1800 1800	PISS = Permanent interest-bearing shares. Source NetWest Markets SEGARG IN FOCSIP: MINITORNY AGSET MANAGEMENT PISCS SIGNES APTER AGESSED TAKEDVER 1800	Halifax Halifax Halifax Bristol & West	8.750% 12.000% 13.630% 13.380%	113.25 148.00 178.50 170.00		100.82 100.28 100.00 100.34	50,000 50,000 50,000 1,000
SHARE IN POSIES MINICURY ASSET MANAGEMENT	PRACE EGAINS AFTER ACCESED TAXABLE TO 1700 1800 1800	SHARE IN FOCUS: MUNGURY ASSET MANAGEMENT PRICE EQUIES AFTER ACCESSED TAXABOVER 1800 1800 1400	Northern Rock	12.625%	162.35	7,760	100.14	1,000
THE PARTY AND ADDRESS TAVESTORY	PRICE SOMES APTER AGESSED TAKEOVER 1800 1800	PRICE SOME AFTER AGRESS TAKEOVER 1800 1800 1800 1400		handen abanca	Charge Mai	Winet Mark	min.	
	2500	1800	PRS=Permanent interest	Opening sciences.				
1200 1200 1200 1200 1200 1200 1200 1200	1200	Dec Jan Feb Mar Azı May Jun Jul Aug Seo Oct Hov	SHARE IN	OSHE MIRG HOMES APTE	H ACCESSO	TAKHOVE		1500 1400 1300 1200

Yorkahirii 0800 378836	4,95	E25-150k	95	176 discount for
Banks of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	25	Fixed for 6 mth,
Britisal & West 01179 792222	2.90	ng mer	90	Fixed to 1.11.98
%	LA	HGER!	OA	\$. \ \ .
Lender	interest rate %	Loan	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Nottingham imper. 0115 9917220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Flowed art 0.75% to 31,1.96
Leeds & Holbeck 0113 225 7777	1.20	to 2180k	95	7% dec-6 mths, 1% dec-12 mths
Scarborough 0990 133149	0.99	· £15-100k	95	7.24% dac-6 mlh 2%-6mlh,0.5%-1y
Banks				
Bazik of ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mth 3% dac-5 mth
Brittol & West 01179 792222	2.90	no max	.90	Pixed at 2.90% to 1.11.98

LARGER LENDERS

•	
EDEE	OFFER
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CHREY LIFE Halfenhard Ru BHJ KAL 71202 292373	a£ Ban	-		
Untedian S4 Ethical 54 International 54 Protected Oth 54 Asian Paditic	214,93 177,50 218,90 130,60 156,60	236.30 186,90 230.10 137.50 167.00	9 10 9,70 9,40 0,30 1,50	

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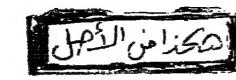
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UK Opportunity 293.70 Fix70	+ 4.30	Bristol & West (2) 1 [(2.90 0.20 .
North Amer Opp 29160 MA /	- 5.00	Baulty Med 51 205 at 322 at + 7.20 Managed 51 207.10 121.20 + 6.40
Far East Opp 172.30 182.40 Owth Prop Set 1 176.40 145.60	- 1.30	Afternations \$1 277.91 250.50 = 7.30 Harvaged (2) 2.81 45 219 40 = 4.30
1 Oth Prop Set 1 218.90 229 ID	• 0.20 • [NO ,	Cache Mila Cis - 405.40 417.10 -10.20 0.01
(Cash 177,40 184,10	• G.30 L.49	CHILMIN LIP GLE LIRVIN > 0.50
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[Fixed Internal 166 40 788.93	6 4,60	FRIENDS' PROVIDENT
North America 240 70 274,90	910	Casde Street, Sallsbury, Wiles SPI FSH 07727 413-966
Far East 130.00 136,91	• 900 • 150	Variancei 437.31 437.65 +(0.31
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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

When three days means eight days

From Mr G.C. Bartram Sir, I read with interest Gavin transferred one cheque per account to my son's account in day reason cheques take so long, November 15). But what infuriates me is the length of time it takes to credit cash to the recipient's bank account.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Ension annuities

HST-TIME BUYERS

La Station Temps Store

My son banks with the Royal Bank of Scotland in one town, but at present lives in another. Recently, I paid £250 into the Royal Bank of Scotland in a third town on a Wednesday. I was assured he would be able to withdraw the money two days later on Friday; but on that day he was told it had not been credited to his account

On the other hand money withdrawn from an account is debited instantly. It seems that what is sauce for the kitten is not sauce for the cat. Yours faithfully G. BARTRAM.

Eldon House. Heighington, From Mr Ken Hartshorne

Sir, My personal account is in Glenrothes, my business account is with the Co-Operative Bank Direct, a telephone banking service. On Monday

The local cheque clearance time is said to be three working days not counting the day that the cheque arrives in his account. We took that to mean that he would have access to the cash on Friday.

November 17, at 2.30 pm, [

However, I discovered that would take five working days to transfer the money from my business account which means that it will not arrive in my son's account until next Tuesday, making a total time for the transfer of eight actual days.

Why? Because the Co-op is an English bank. Does it work that way from an English bank branch to the Bank of Scotland in Scotland, 3

I did actually mention your article last Saturday citing the Co-op as one of the slowest banks in the cheque transfer league. This seemed not to make any difference. Yours faithfully, KEN HARTSHORNE. Airlie Cottage, East End, Freuchie,

More answers please, Sun Alliance

From Mr Robin Fish Sir. Despite being appalled by your report (How £5,000 rose to just £5,004) about how exorbitant commissions had cut Mr Gerrard's pension investment to a paltry return of 0.01 per cent, I am even more concerned that Royal Sun Alli-

ance's return on the remaining £2,500 was no more than a compound 5.14 per cent rate. Bearing in mind that the traditional return by pension companies is supposed to be

about 12 per cent compound, 1 would have expected his investment to be worth at least £13,600 after allowing for the

loss of £2,500 in commissions. I believe that Royal Sun Alliance has even more explaining to do before you let ROBIN FISH, Thornhill, 27 Balcombe Road

Haywards Heath.

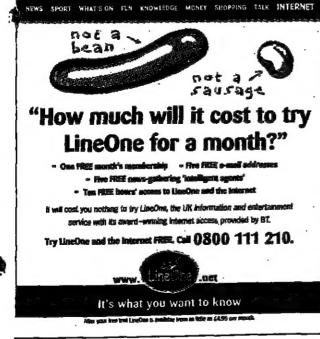
Fun with faxes and banks

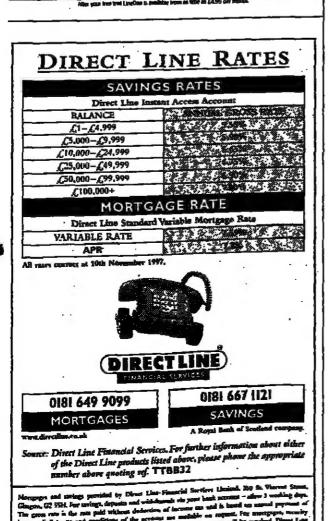
From Mr Gordon C. Smith Sir, Can you explain the logic in a reply I received from my bank's Customer Correspondence Centre? I had tried to fax a letter to my regional office and, having first been told the number I always used was no longer in use and then receiving no answer from the new

espondence is now dealt with by our head office. We did not advise our account holders of the change in fax numbers because very few customers use the facility and those who wish to normally ring us to obtain the fax number beforehand."

I need hardly add that the new fax number was not printed at the head nor did my Yours faithfully.

number given, I wrote to comcorrespondent give it to mel plain that it was unrealistic today to make faxing a mess-GORDON SMETH age so difficult (no fax number is on the bank's letterhead). Sativus House. The reply reads: "Due to a " 3A High Street, recent reorganisation, all corr- Saffron Walden, Essex.





OME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

It was love at first Pep...

AThere ain't a ISA savings system in the land wot 12 swap for me dear ole

From Miss Paola Revello Sir, I have fallen in love ... and not either with the latest sexy tycoon. It's very serious. I've fallen in love ... with the Pep. What shall I do? It's such a long-lasting relationship, it is so reliable, trustworthy, even flexible and I have to say so simple. that kind of simplicity you can just fall over.

I am certainly not the only one to feel so strongly about this greatest saving means. We have taken probably some time to trust and understand it, to believe it would give us the opportunity really to save tax and grow our capital in complete flexibility. But now we are all convinced and we actually enjoy it.

Now comes the big question. Why the Government wants to put an end to all

this? Is it not in the Government's interest to teach people how to save for their interest finally to admit that the Pep gives a great boost to the economy?

Obviously we cannot judge the Isa (individual savings account) as it seems still protected by tight security. But is it really wise even to think about abolishing one good saving system that is proven before even knowing how the next one is

going to perform? Let's then please raise our voices, let's make sure our point of view is heard, before it is too late, before the fate of the Pep will be decided and our saving future heavily compromised. Yours faithfully, PAOLA REVELLO. 137 Roll Gardens,

Gants Hill, Essex.

CGT ALLOWANCES—OCTOBER 1997

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance or assets disposed of in October 1997

-	Jamuary	-	0,3637	U,BS/	0.749	0.007	CHC'D	U.394	9,431
١	February	-	0,922	0.829	0.735	0,651	0,589	0.538	0,427
1	March	1.008	0,919	0,823	0.719	0.649	0.585	0.532	0.420
1	April	0.968	0.892	0.799	0.683	0.633	0.567	0.508	0.395
١	May	0.954	0.884	0.793	0.675	0.630	0.565	0.502	0.387
1	June			0.788					
١	July			0.790					
١	August			0.773					
4	September 16, 572	0.949	0.853	A770	150.0	0.623	0.558	0:471	0.368
1				0.759					
١	November	0.930	0.840	0.754	0.663	0.606	0.543	0.450	0,346
١	December			0,755					
┪		1000	4004	1000	1000	4004	1005	1008	1997
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	-	0.335	0.225 0.218 0.214 0.198	0.178 0.170 0.167	0.157 0.149 0.145 0.134	0.129 0.122 0.119 0.106	0,092 0,086 0,081 0,070	0.062 0.057 0.053 0.045	0.033 0.029 0.026 0.020
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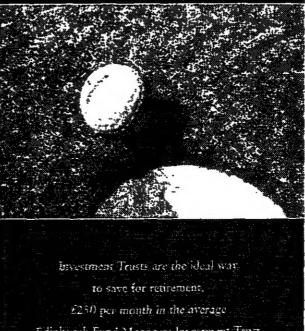
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Ninety years on: a Steiff bear with a chair on which he was photographed in 1907 (£5,000-E7,000)

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Clare Stewart says that collectors of all ages still go wild for teddy bears

Bear essentials for buyers

The saleroom prices of Clarice Cliff pottery or Victorian wildlife paintings may fluctuate according to fashion but, say auction-eers, teddy bear collectors are less fickle. Their devotion is lifelong and unwavering.

With a number of pre-Christmas toy sales coming up at auction houses, it is a busy time of the year for teddy bears. On December 8 Christie's has its fifth annual teddy bear sale and this year is also commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Margarete Steiff, the founder of the leading German toy and teddy bear maker. Together with vintage Brit-

ish and American bears, the Christie's sale includes a large number of Steiff bears, Steiff tovs and associated memorabilia. Among these are bears dating from the early days of production in 1903 through to distinguished modern bears.

"It is a very buoyant market and the interest is worldwide,"

says Leyla Maniera, Christie's teddy bear specialist. Estimates for bears in the December sale range from £100 to £8,000. Among those at the top end is an early Steiff bear.

made in 1904 and in very good condition, suggesting that it has never seen active service as a child's toy. Just a little older is "Jonny", a large white Steiff bear, 28 inches high and dating from 1905.

Despite the high prices that some rare bears can feich the world record is £110,000 you do not have to be very wealthy to start collecting. "Almost any bear with a maker's label made before 1970 is of interest to collectors,"

said Constance King, a bear

and doll expert, whose book The Century of the Teddy Bear has just been published (An-

Bears made between 1940

and 1970 can still be found for less than £100, says Ms King, while bears from the 1920s and

1930s are particularly desir-

able. For these, expect to pay

Earlier examples, how-

ever, may cost thousands of

pounds, depending on the

upwards of E700.

tique Collectors Club, £25).

were less fashionable in the Sixties and Seventies so examples of well-made bears of the period are harder to find.

Collectors' interest in bears was first seen in the early 1980s, says Ms King, led initially at least by an interest from gay men in the US, inspired by Evelyn Waugh's novel Brideshead Revisited and Aloysius, the teddy bear companion of Sebastian Flyte.

It is a very buoyant market. Almost any teddy with

a maker's label dating from before 1970 is of interest

Teddy bear collecting is now

a widespread interest. The

Japanese, for example, are noted buyers; it was a Japa-nese collector who paid £110,000 for Teddy Girl in 1994, a famous Steiff bear that

belonged to another enthusi-ast, the late Colonel Hender-son. He founded the charity

Great Bears of the World.

to disadvantaged children.

which distributes teddy bears

Price and investment value

may be irrelevant if you're

style of bear, its condition and origins. Teddy bears as a toy emotional rather than financial attachment. If it is a love of teddy bears that inspires you. then the advice is simple: buy what you like.

But if you wish to balance both interests, the experts say there are some key pitfalls to avoid. Beware the modern limited edition bears, says Constance King, because they are not necessarily a good investment. "Often, so-called limited edi-

tion bears are just a basic bear

but with a customised bow

added," she says. It is also worth checking just how limit-ed is the edition; it may run

The danger with such toys is

that they are bought as an

investment, and then kent

pristine in their boxes. Conse-

potential investments are art-

into thousands.

dancing bear, complete with muzzle, and has an estimate of £5,000 to £7.000, but it could well fetch more.

Yvonne Bentley of Phillips says that other noted German manufacturers include Schuco, Bing, and Gebruder Süssenguth, whose output included Peter Bears. These were made to look rather more like real bears and came with alarming-looking teeth. The idea backfired, however. The bears frightened children and production stopped. Because relatively few were made, Peter Bears now fetch good

English manufacturers are also sought-after, with leading and sought-after, with leading names including Farnell. Chad Valley, Chiltern and Merrythought. "British bears are fighting back," says Kerry Taylor at Sotheby's. While prices for these manufacturers have risen strongly, they can still be found for less than many German makes and are a good starting point for novice collectors.

As with almost any other antique, provenance or know-ing something of the history of an item adds value. This can take the form of association with a famous person or event. Teddy Edward, for example, fetched £35,000 at auction last year as the bear from Watch with Mother.

made bears, dressed in Talue will be added if there is information antique or expensive fabrics, and often unique. "These could be valuable in the future about the previous ownbut only time will tell which makers will be in demand," er, whoever the owner was, Among the lots at the Chrissays Ms King.
Older bears, usually taken to mean those dating up until the 1960s, remain the most be's sale is a German bear that is now a little battered, with an eye missing, but with a picture of his original owner, a young girl called Gwen, standing desirable and most valuable, next to the then youthful bear

so much so that finding good bears is increasingly difficult. National and regional auctions of toys and dolls are one at E150-E200. place to buy, although buying outside Landon does not necessarily mean lower prices. Specialist toy and doll dealers can also be found at the many antique fairs around the

country, and there are events such as the London International Antique and Artists Dolls, Miniatures and Teddy Bears Fair, which is held five times a year in Kensington Town Hall, London. The next fair is on February 15, with another on April 26 0181-693 5432 for further details). If you are buying older-bears, good condition counts for as much as a maker's label.

Also look for features such as unusual colours that may mean it is a rarer variety bear. Steiff bears are the most desirable, says Leyla Maniera. They may not be the rarest but they hold their price." Phillips, the auction house,

has a Steiff bear as the centrepiece of its Christmas Toys and Dolls sale on Decem-

quently, there could be hundreds around in the future. Similarly, quality reproduetion bears made in the traditional style are in numerous supply. So even if kept in perfect condition they are un-likely to be rare and therefore sought after in the future. A little more interesting as

ists' bears. These are hand-

in 1915. His price is estimated Contemporary connections are also valuable. Two limited edition Steiff bears are being auctioned at the Christie's sale in aid of Save the Children. The bears recently sailed around the world on the Save

the Children Yacht in the 1996-97 BT Global Challenge Race. For novice collectors looking for more information, the sale catalogues issued by auction much. useful information about different manufacturers and types of antique teddy

Makers such as Merrythought, based in Telford, also have collectors' clubs for enthusiasts, while other sources of information include museums, many of which have doll and toy collections.

Forthcoming sales include:
Christie's, December 8 (0171-581 7611); Bonhams, December 11 (0171-393 3900); Phillips, December 16 (0171-629 6602); Sotheby's, May 28 (0171-493



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Fair opportunity to check up on your antiques

range of both artefacts and dealers under one roof than any town or city can offer in such a concentrated area. This weekend's Fine Art &

Antiques Fair at Olympia, West London, is no exception, with 250 exhibitors, many of whom are members of the British Antique Dealers' Association (Bada). Potential buyers certainly

find it convenient to compare pieces with competitive prices, notably in period furniture. All items on sale have been examined by expert commit-tees to ensure that both the identification and labelling are correct. This iscarried out

by Bada members or the

London & Provincial Antique

Dealers' Association, academics or museum curators. As a typical example, a pair of Victorian silver candlesticks which had been converted to take electricity with cut-glass bowls to hold the lamp were rejected - because the bowls

were not contemporary. Many investors like fairs in order to check on the correct date and identification - as well as the current value for insurance purposes — of pieces. Most events will not allow you to take personal antiques in, but take colour photographs of antiques, remembering to take one of the back, particularly for porce-Jain, and noting any marks on silver and ceramics, as well as

Visitors to Olympia should not miss the loan exhibition. Miniatures, engraved 18th-century glass and medals commemorating the secret allegiance to the Jacobite cause. have been lent by Drambuje. A range of outstanding oak chairs from the 15th to 17th

top antiques fair pro-vides a far greater never lent before, are on show. as is a remarkable 17th-century group of naive portraits of. the Erskine family from the

House of Dun in Scotland. There are many modestly priced pieces suitable for Christmas: silver wine funnels, Stilton scoops, tankards, nuterackers and lobster picks, alongside exquisite Flemish and German woodcarvings of angels from the 15th century.

One innovation is the "touch tours" organised for the blind and partially sight-ed. Working with the Royal National Institute for the Blind, ten dealers will help such visitors to feel works of art including jewellery, textiles and bronzes.

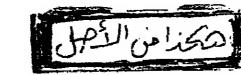
airs of glass decanters are popular, according to Christine Bridges. A good Regency pair has in-creased from £300 to £500 in 1992 to £500 to £800 and for Victorian from £200 to £300 to £350 to £550 today.

Stylish manogany side ta-bles have the benefit of being both decorative and useful. A George II card table, circa 1750, is offered by Hallidays of Dorchester-on-Thames for £9,800, up from £6,500 to £7,000 five years ago, according to Tracy Hodges.

Bronzes, particulary equestrian, are a firm market. Ted Few, a London specialist, has a bronze statue of King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy on a horse 27 inches in height. signed and dated 1917 by Walter Winans, the Flemish artist, for £6,500, up from £1,500 to £2,000 a decade ago.

■ The Olympia fair is open from I lam to 7pm today and liam to 5pm tomorrow.

CONAL GREGORY



Africa ridding

EMBER 22 1997

AR ago. South Africa to the Pare des Princes in er, the back of a good Bordeaux and sneaked in secure a 2-0 was over France, Today save a chance to repeat where in the contraine ugbr "mernatumal ig he at the Parc and become st team to win successive IL FITTING

en that they were beaten British Islas and in the Side bearrament by the lasts market they year. 221 de Nek Mallen, they has third much of page with the remarkable Mallen . The that in France II e productive draw a The Street during the I recommon the Springman and "It won't be mand a country residence within

Art on Nell Wart to to their form in the this to last week, which v. 5, 35,32. They were and imaginative on the had they will not want of 24 purpose of current to ten framee man from Breit down or Societary half.

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TISTICS

in £10bn Christmas spree r repeat FOR R SPORTS STATE Barclaycard will launch a campaign next week aimed at capitalising on the all-important pre-Christmas shopping period when

> spend a record £10 billion on debit and credit-cards. Card use rises sharply in the month up to Christmas and retailers will see 70p in every il of the money spent on cards. This year's shopping spree is likely to be £1 billion ligher than last year, when Barclays registered seven card

consumers are expected to

transactions a second. Barclaycard is launching what it describes as its "biggest consumer promotion" and is offering cardholders the chance to win back the value of purchases between Monday and Christmas Eve. There is also a cash prize of £100,000. Such sums are relatively

small, however, in comparison with credit card providers' total income. Their margins come from three sources: the interest levied on borrowings and the processing fee charged to the retailer.

Borrowing on credit card makes sense, according to Elizabeth Phillips, director of the Credit Card Research Group, but only for short-term debt. She said: "If you can time it right, you can have 56 days of interest-free credit. The trick is to check which date your monthly statement is sent out, and then make your purchase as close as possible to that date so you would have almost two months before you had to clear

☐ No annual fees: For people who pay off their cards in full each month, Moneyfacts, the recommends the Alliance &

t's an early bird that catches the worm,

they say. But if you're a private investor

with an early deal on the Stock Exch-

ange all you could catch is a cold. Sets, the

stock exchange's new electronic trading

system, is causing many shares to be traded at artificially high or low prices. This

problem of wide spreads is particularly acute in the first hour of trading, when

18 million "Sids" in this country may have

out by either paying too much for new

shares or by not getting enough for shares they sell. Worst affected are likely to be

clients of execution-only brokers who do not

provide advice on the best timing or price

for a deal. Although many of the deals they

handle are less than £4,000 and would not

normally be put through Sets many brokers

receive instructions at the end of a day to buy or sell when the market opens at 8.30

many private investors do their deals:

Marianne Curphey offers canny shoppers advice

Playing your cards right

on spreading the cost of festive purchases



Red sea: card-carrying consumers are expected to break spending records this Christmas

have an annual fee and has a 46-day interest-free period. The monthly interest rate for debt is 1.38 per cent, while the annualised APR (which tends to include the annual card fee) is 17.9 per cent.

Other cards that do not have a fee are Liverpool Victoria's Visa card, which has 50 days of interest-free credit, a monthly interest rate of L45 per cent and an APR of 18.9 per cent; and the Goldfish Card with 52 days of interest-free credit, an APR of 19.8 per cent and a per cent. Alternatively, if you are unable to clear your debt

straight away you can borrow for a few months on a card that has a lower monthly interest rate.

☐ Best buys for short-term

MoneyFacts recommends the Co-operative Bank's Advantage Visa card, which has a very low rate of 0.64 per cent, no fee and an APR of 7.9 per cent on purchases. This, like the 0.79 per cent monthly rate available on the RBS Advanta card, is an introductory rate that will change next year. The Royal Bank of Scotland

Gavin Lumsden on a problem built into the system for Sid

Early traders lose in straight Sets

early on was a good idea if you wanted to

profit from a day's rise in the price. But the

price of a blue chip such as Legal &

General, the insurer, can now start off 60-

This week, the London Stock Exchange

was forced to ask brokers to discourage their clients from trading early as it sorted

out the problem. Exchange officials have

stockbrokers, and new guidance for mem-

broken the central professional

rule of getting the best price for clients. One

measure under consideration is for the

Exchange to issue warnings not to deal in

certain stocks when they are known to be

It was never meant to be like this. At the

trading at unrealistic prices.

owever, there are fears that some

brokers may have inadvertently

80p off its natural level.

any private investors do their deals.

Held urgent meetings with the Securities and Futures Authority, which regulates

for the first 12 months, although this card has an annual fee of £10.

☐ Store cards: Store cards do not compare favourably with such credit card deals. But a store card may be worth having if you are offered a discount as an incentive of 10 per cent or so to take out the card and then pay off the balance in full before any interest is charged.

If you are unable to pay off the balance, then store cards are an expensive way to finance your festive season purchases. The Burton Group

share dealing less expensive. It would achieve this by abolishing the market-

maker who made money on the turn of

every deal. Investors would place an order

on an electronic book and wait for it to be matched by another order. To be fair, the

system has achieved this. The average

spread for deals after 9.30am has narrowed

from 0.6 per cent to 0.5 per cent. The

problem that the Exchange has found is that Sets is like an engine that takes a while

to warm up. It has been hampered by the

natural caution of professional investors

faced with a new system, combined with the

low volume in a market that has turned bearish after the recent turmoil brought on

While waiting for some improvement,

private investors should check that brokers

are using the old-fashioned market-makers

(now known as retail service providers) and

ask for the deal to be done in the late

morning or afternoon, when the pricing

by crashes in the Far Eastern markets.

Dorothy Perkins, Evans, Principles and Top Shop/Man. charges an APR of 20.0 per cent and a monthly rate of 2.21 per cent if you do not opt to pay off the debt by direct debit.

Likewise the SearsCard. which includes Dolcis, Miss Selfridge, Shoe City, Wallis and Warehouse, charges 29.8 per cent APR on debts not paid by direct debit and a monthly rate of 2.34 per cent. Even Barclaycard, which

charges a £10 annual fee, has a lower interest rate of 1.65 per month (APR 22.9 per cent).

Overdrafts: If the interest on your overdraft is less than the rate on your credit card, it makes sense to dip into overdraft to pay off the card. There is no point running an overdraft and credit card debt simultaneously. However. banks can charge high penalties for customers who go into the red without getting authorisation first.

The lowest rates for authorised overdrafts, according to Moneyfacts, are available from the Alliance & Leicester, Nationwide Building Society. Abbey National, Halifax and Bank of Scotland Banking Direct.

Personal loans: If after six months you are still struggling to pay back the excesses of Christmas, it could be worth changing your credit card debt into a personal loan. Direct Line has one of the cheapest personal loans, with an APR of 12.8 per cent, although you have to be over 22 to qualify. Capital One Direct and Bank of Scotland Banking Direct both have APRs of 12.9 per cent. If you were to take out a loan with the Woolwich, which has an APR of 13.9 per cent, it would cost you £188 a month to repay £5,000 over three years, including insurance.

Switch and cheques: If you would rather keep a closer check on the money leaving your account then both Switch payments and cheques tend to dear within two days. NatWest, which helped to pioneer the Switch card, said: 'If you make two purchases on Monday, one with Switch and the other by cheque, the Switch payment will be deb-ited on the Tuesday evening and the cheque will clear on Wednesday morning."

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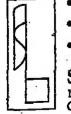
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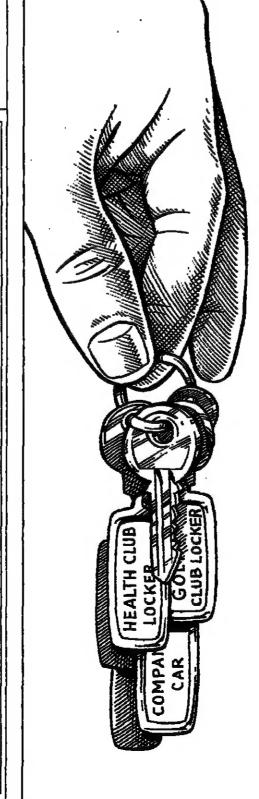
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BEAR ESSENTIALS 62

If you go down to to the sales you're in for a big surprise

WEEKEND

tion surrounds the

contents of Tuesday's green Budget, de-spite the Treasury's valiant

efforts to reassure nervous taxpayers that the statement

will be "not a long list of policy

announcements, but rather a setting-out of various govern-

ment aims". Many are not per-

the Chancellor, will be content merely to foreshadow changes rather than introduce immedi-

that there will be no retrospec-

tive measures in the Chancellor's statement. But Maurice Fitzpatrick, of Chantrey Vellacott, the accountants,

says that it is still possible that

cluded in the 1998 Budget, but

having effect from November 25, 1997. This would enable the

Chancellor to close immediately any loopholes that he finds unusually intolerable.

Mr Fitzpatrick said there

vas a precedent: "In October

1996, new rules were introduced for companies buying

back their own shares. These were made applicable from the date of the Inland Revenue

Rumours have emerged this

week that company cars and the tax-free pension lump sum

could be within Mr Brown's

sights. Every Chancellor for

the past decade has been

thought to be longing to to

abolish the tax-free pension

lump sum. But any changes

would be likely to be thrown

open for discussion among

interested parties for imple

mentation at a later date. The

taxation of company cars,

another vexed issue, would

press release."

ate reforms.

SMALL TALK 59

Is the smaller company making a comeback?



Anne Ashworth looks at the likely contents of Brown's consultative Budget

Green feeling prompts nerves



Inherit the earth — at a price

ne of the tax-raising targets for next week's green Budget could be the £26 billion that is inherited each year (Caroline Merrell writes). In spite of the vast fortune changing hands, the Exchequer only manages to raise about £1.4 billion from the 18,000 estates that end up paying inheritance tax. According to research from IFA Promotion, the organisation that promotes independent financial advice, under present rules £900 million of this tax could be avoided. At present only ve EZISJUJU are (axed, it is alsi possible to give away certain amounts of her estate would have been above the personal pension."

money before death without paying tax.
A radical overhaul of the IHT rules could in future hit people such as Susan Opie, above, a 34-year-old book editor with HarperCollins. Ms Opie's grand-mother died ten years ago, leaving Ms Opie as the only heir to the estate, the major part of the inheritance was a house in the country. Ms Opie said that the sale of the house raised "several thousand pounds" - the average size of an inheritance today is £18,000. If Ms Opie's grandmother had lived in the

£215,000 exemption limit. Any amount

above this is taxed at 40 per cent. Ms Opie has recently decided to invest the money, after leaving it languishing in a building society for close to a decade. As deposit rates have not kept up with inflation over this period. Ms Opie's lump sum is now worth far less than it was when she inherited. Ms Opie said: "I decided in the end to put quite a lot of the money in to a personal pension. I was not aware until I went to my financial adviser that

also seem to merit further deliberation. At present, the three million people who drive company ss tax for their

that pollution would be reduced if they spent less time at the wheel, he is said to be considering taxing drivers for private mileage. To encourage employees to take public transport rather than drive their company cars, he would abolish the rule forcing workers to pay tax on season tickets provided by employers. However, observers point out that a private mileage basis for the taxation of vehicles would be as open to abuse as the old system and would create a bureaucratic nightmare for

payroll departments.
Rumoured targets for immediate action include various capital gains and inheritance tax concessions. Potentially exempt transfers (Pets) are seen Pet rules permit you to trans-fer an infinite amount of assets to your heirs. Provided you survive for seven years, these gifts will escape inheritance tax. John Battersby, of KPMG. the accountant, believes that Pets could either be abolished or made subject to a cash limit.

r Fitzpatrick the capital gains £6,500 may also be vulnerable. Each year an individual can make tax-free capital gains up to this limit. He said: "Some would argue that there is no logical reason why such an allowance should exist. Capital gains are now taxed at the same rates as income tax. This means that there is no necessity for a separate capital gains

tax allowance. There is pressure on Mr Brown to provide some further detail on the individual savings account (Isa), his proposed replacement for the Pep and the Tessa. However, Mr Brown's wish to ensure that the new account appeals to the daid is apparently if their business mileage is ing an announcement.



Anne Ashworth on the Government's pension dilemma

HOME BUYING

Predictions for house prices in 1998



INVESTMENT

TRUST 59

European smaller companies. A tasty dish?

BUSINESS NEWS PAGES



WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Pension changes could lead to

ment. Many part-timers, women and others with irregular earnings end up relying on the State in their old age. According to figures from the Department of Social Security. about ten million people in the working population rely only

on basic and Serps pensions. The Government wants the private sector to work towards providing low-cost, flexible

the current state system as well as occupational schemes. The DSS envisages that contri-butions for stakeholder pensions should be deducted from earnings at source. The money deducted should be invested by financial services comnies to provide an adequate fund for retirement. The Government suggested investment

trusts and unit trusts as pos-

In light of the recent scandal

sible investment vehicles.

vide stakeholder pensions do so within a certain number of proscribed criteria — so-called "Kitemarking" of products. Mr Denham clearly indicated that the companies which failed to clear up their pensions mis-selling problems quickly enough would be barred from being involved in

providing the new pension. Mr Denham refused to be drawn on whether there had to be any degree of compulsion in the new schemes. He did indicate that many within the financial services community believed that compulsion was

CAROLINE MERRELL

week delivered the strongest hint yet that it intends to wind down the state earnings-related pensions scheme (Serps). Speaking at a conference announcing proposals for the new-style stake-holder pensions, John Denhum, the Pensions Minister, refused to say whether Serps, the additional state scheme for employees without company

schemes, would be continued indefinitely. He pointed out that the Government's manifesto only pro-mised that Serps would be maintained for those in the scheme at present, in Opposition. Labour was savagely critical of Conservative plans to privatise entirely both the basic pension scheme and Serps. Stakeholder pensions are

aimed at encouraging millions

the end of Serps more to save for their retire-

and secure second-tier pen-sions. It believes stakeholder

Far East forecast still stormy A siun economies, including Hong Kong, may be on the verge of an economic meltdown that could

send share prices tumbling worldwide, according to some Far East fund managers. Many are increasing their investment in bonds, a traditional haven when stock markets are turbulent, and are urging investors to do the same.

The turmoil in Asia has been well publicised, particularly last month, when falls in Hong Kong sent London's FISE 100 into a nosedive. Nevertheless, some optimists have started predicting a turnaround in the region.

This cuts no ice with Ashok Shah. senior portiolio manager with Old Mutual Asset Managers, who has just visited Asia and is convinced that the region lacks the leadership to steer it towards recovery. He said: "Too many politicians and industrialists have personally benefited from economic policies which have left their countries up to their neck in debt, their stock markets in ruins and their currencies devalued. They have two options. They could take the medicine now and go through pain. or die - 1 believe they have taken the death option."

As a result, he says, property values in Thailand, South Korea, Indonesia and Malaysia will soon crash, dragging their banks, which have lent heavily on real estate development, nearer bankruptcy. Banks are already struggling because many of the companies they lent to have overexpanded and cannot generate suffi-

cient exports to pay their debts.

Mr Shah believes that traditional methods of valuing the region's com-panies are useless. He said: "Whether you look at earnings per share, price-earnings ratios, cashflow or dividend yield, you just don't know what you are



buying." He scotches any idea of buying at the bottom of the market for at least another year, by which time normal conditions may have resumed.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong and Japan are under pressure. The former British colony is desperately trying to maintain its currency peg with the US dollar in the face of a concerted effort by international speculators. However, Mr Shah believes the peg will be abandoned within six months as high interest rates bite into the population's pockets, even though this will make the high level of debt increasingly burdensome. As the recession grows and inflation falls, there will be less motivation to invest in property, the backbone of the Hong Kong economy. In Japan, already the

victim of an eight-year recession, the outlook is just as bad as exports to its Asian neighbours dry up.

With the darkening stormclouds in the East, the rest of the world should not feel immune, says Mr Shah. Where they were once entrepreneurial, Asian manufacturers are now desperate and will sell their goods for any price they can get. The result is bad news for manufacturers worldwide, but good news for Western consumers who will get cheap goods and low inflation. However, this is just the environment where our own stock markets will suffer. Bonds and shares in blue-chip companies with no Asian interests are the best options.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

